



ZIP DAVIS
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE

»» SPECIAL ONLINE MUSIC ISSUE ««

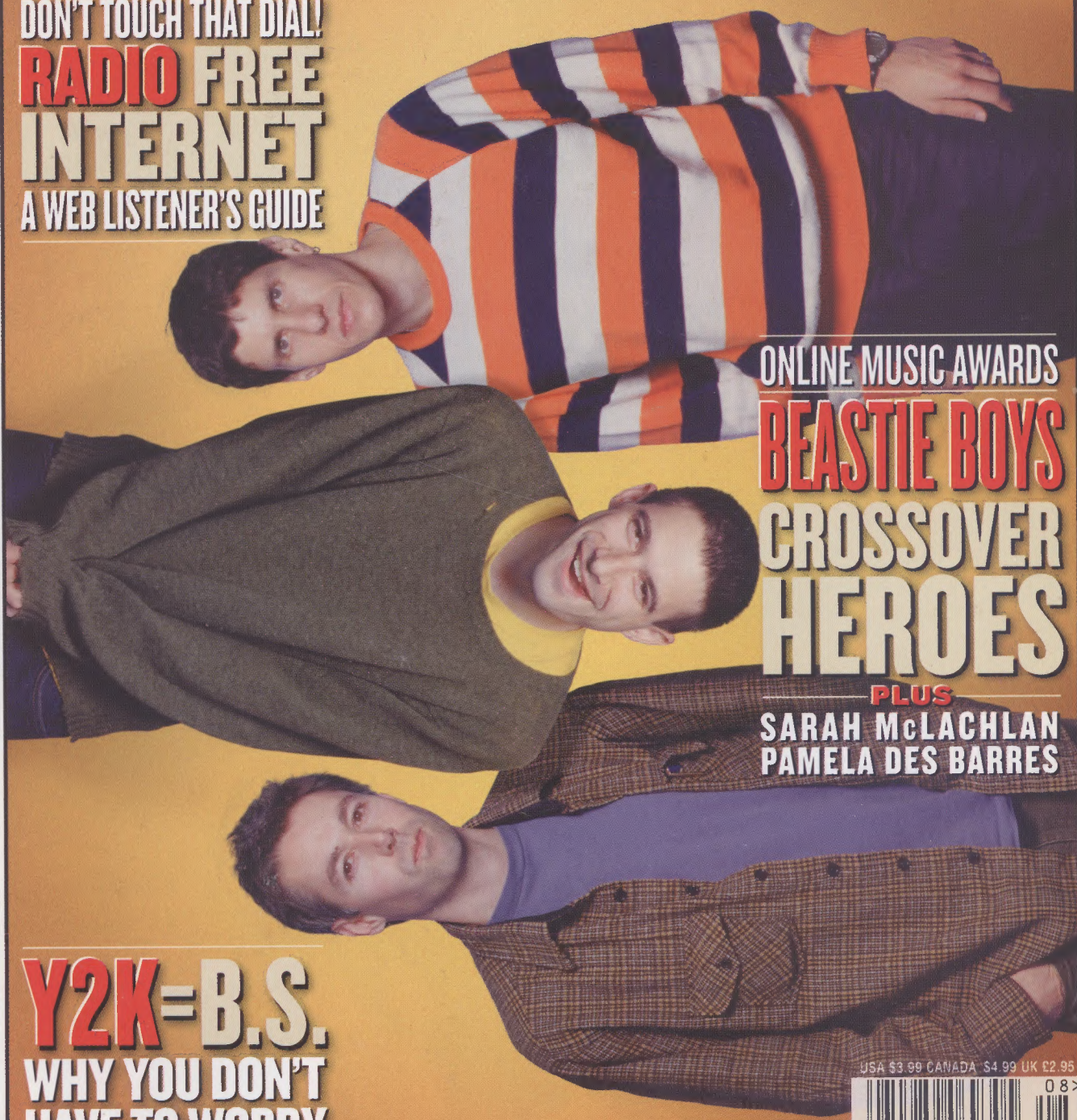
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Internet Life

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RADIO FREE
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A WEB LISTENER'S GUIDE



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11 mg. "tar", 0.9 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

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HG Hot Guys

MS Man Stew

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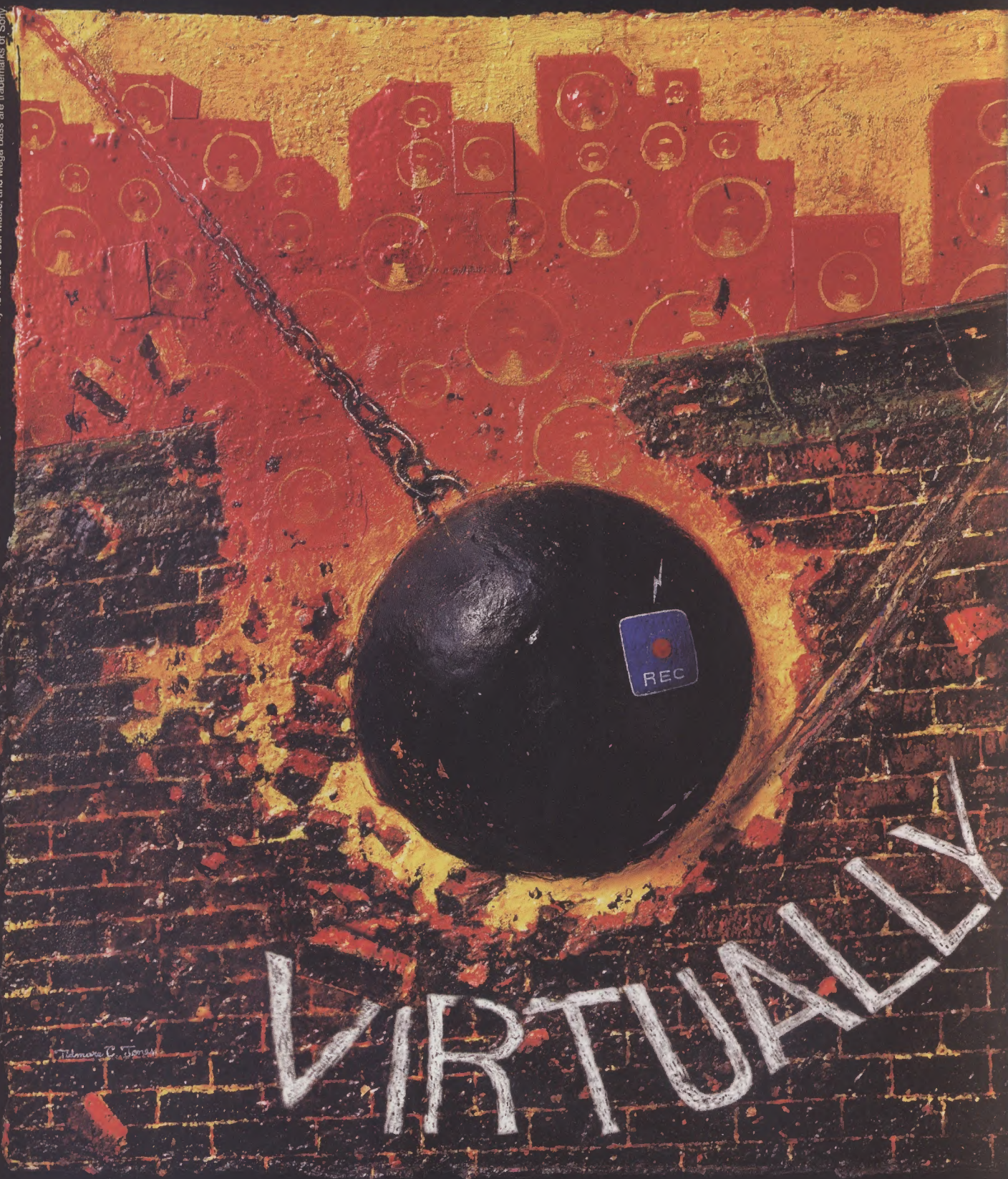


Look what fell out of the family tree.



WHAT A LUXURY CAR SHOULD BE

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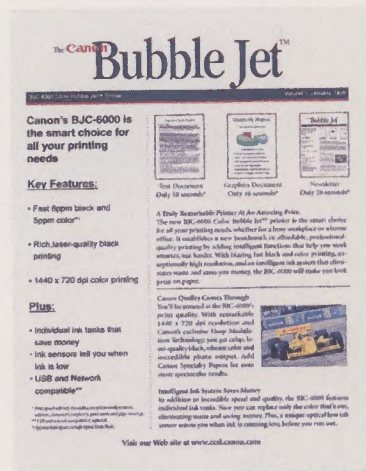
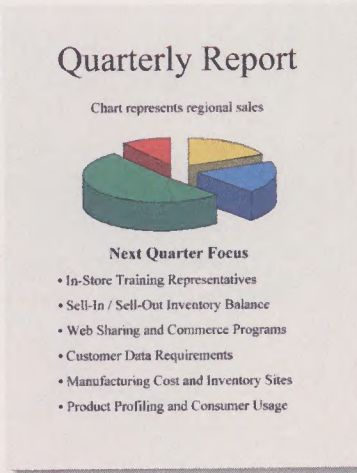
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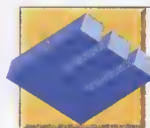
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- 40X Max⁵ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
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- MS IntelliMouse[®]
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- 64MB SDRAM (384MB Max¹³)
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E-VALUE CODE: 88962-500718m

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- 17" (16.0" viewable, .26dp) 1000HS Trinitron Monitor
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- NEW 6X Max¹⁰ Variable DVD-ROM Drive
- Turtle Beach Montego II A3D 320V Sound Card
- ACS-340 Speakers with Subwoofer
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\$72/Mo., 48-Month Purchase Plan³³

E-VALUE CODE: 88962-500723

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- 20.4GB⁴ Ultra ATA Hard Drive (7200 RPM)
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- NEW 32MB Diamond Viper 770D nVidia AGP Graphics Card
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- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE LT Pro 3D Video
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E-VALUE CODE: 88962-800729

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Desktop Features, Notebook Convenience

- 15" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 128MB SDRAM (384MB Max¹³)
- 14GB⁴ Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Removable Combo 4X¹⁰ DVD-ROM and Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP BMB ATI RAGE LT Pro 3D Video
- Internal 56K Capable¹¹ v.90 Fax Modem with Trial Offer ConnectDirect Internet Access¹⁴
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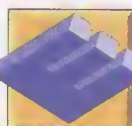
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- NEW 6X Max¹⁰ Variable DVD-ROM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- NEW v.90¹¹ PCI DataFax Modem with Trial Offer ConnectDirectSM Internet Access¹⁴
- MS® Works Suite 99 with Money 99 Basic; McAfee VirusScan, MS Windows® 98 2nd Edition
- Dell QuietKey® Keyboard/Logitech MouseMan® Wheel (PS/2v)
- 3-Year Limited Warranty²
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- Power Game Pack²²

★ **Dell Customized Upgrade, add \$399.**
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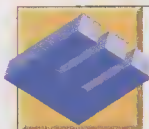
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A Little Net Music

So here we are, with all of "Internet life" to choose from, and for the second time in six months we have a cover package on Net music. Here's why: Though it's hard to name an area of life that's not being affected by the Internet, the music industry is the prime guinea pig in testing how an entire industry reacts to the challenges and opportunities of the Net at the turn of the century. The MP3 revolution, covered frequently in these pages, continues to change the rules of the game—how we listen to, market, record, distribute, and enjoy our music—for fans, artists, and producers alike.

Our story this month begins with the **Beastie Boys**, who, like David Bowie, Chuck D, and scores of other artists, are exploring, and figuring out how to properly exploit, this brave new digital world. The Boys' Q&A with **Jason Gross** is followed by our profile of **Sarah McLachlan**, who overcame her early skepticism to embrace the Net. In "Out of Tune," **David Grad** updates us on the war within—and most definitely without—the ranks of the music biz. Then, for something really different, **Pamela Des Barres** turns her groupie past into a wry ode to online rock collectibles in "I'm With the Bandwidth." And finally, the second installment of our Online Music Awards:

Watch out, Grammys; watch, out MTV Awards.

Separately, but not far away on the dial, **David Kushner** looks at another Net revolution in the making: the liberation of radio from geography and playlists. In "Radio Daze," you'll learn

how close we are to having the capability to pick any programming, from any radio station on Earth, in our own sweet Internet time.

You've no doubt read about the surge of drugstores going online; if you haven't run across an online banner ad telling you "Click here for Viagra," you haven't logged on lately. (Or maybe the software is assuming you're too young to be interested.) But for convenience and discretion, getting your prescriptions filled online may be the Next Big Thing. *Newsweek* contributing editor **Deborah Branscum** checks up for us in "Pushing Pills."

Finally, if you were intrigued by our cover line making light of the millennium-bug "crisis," turn immediately to "Will the Y2K Sky

Really Fall?" **Annette Hamilton**, the ZDNet AnchorDesk columnist who regularly monitors Net hype for us in "Reality Bytes," goes long this month. Don't worry, be happy, she says, and whistle your way into the year 2000. Which is more or less our musical motif for the issue as a whole.



Beastie Boys make their own Great Leap Forward

HANISH BROWN

Barry Golson

Barry Golson Editor in Chief
Letters to the editor: backchat@zd.com

OUR TEAR-OUT SITE ADDRESS GUIDE IS ON PAGE 33

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BACKCHAT

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A Fan of CBS SportsLine

Thanks for rating the sports sites in your July issue ["Gold Star Sites: Sports," page 112]. I know you used the free content as your basis for the ratings. I think if you had used the member content also, CBS SportsLine would have won, hands down. Its forums are far superior to the ones at ESPN. They let you do HTML and link to images, too, and the administrators try hard to keep out objectionable posts. I also like the customizable sports page. I've tried them both. CBS SportsLine is my favorite place on the Net.

Keep up the great work. I've learned a lot from your publication.

—MARK HAANSTAD
smacksonu@hotmail.com

Police Officers: Serving and Deserving

I just received my July issue and was excited about reading the article "50 Most

Incredibly Useful Sites" [page 90]. But I was somewhat disappointed when I read the undeserved and tacky comment about police officers under the Avoid Speed Traps heading. In what I thought was such a professional magazine, why are you allowing comments such as "doughnut-eaters" to be made in your articles? Several police officers I know just spent a week searching for a missing 3-year-old child until they found her, gagged but alive, in an attic. Don't you think they deserve a little respect and admiration instead of having to read comments that sound as if they were written by someone who's still angry over a speeding ticket?

—C.D.G.
curtis1@netpluscom.com

Dogged Research Needed

I always enjoy the "Old Way/Net Way" section of your magazine, but Mr. Sheff

or one of his staffers didn't do enough research to find online dog food [July '99, page 106]. He might like to check out **PetQuarters.com** [www.petquarters.com]. It's the only place I've found that sells the Eukanuba brand online. Other name-brand dog foods are available, too, and the prices are reasonable. When it comes to buying dog food online, I vote Net Way!

—JAY ADAMS
jcadams@bitstreet.com

See our review of pet-related Web sites this month, on page 180. —Ed.

Roger Ebert's Picks

Of course you cannot disagree with someone's favorite sites ["Rule of Thumb," June '99, page 118], but you sure can point out a couple that may have been, let's just say, overlooked. There is this great site for movie reviews and times,

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FilmFrenzy.com [www.filmfrenzy.com], that I seem to go back to every day. And through that site, I found a husband-and-wife team who have become my new favorite reviewers (sorry, Roger!), who go by the name "Reeling" [reelingreviews.com]. Their site also has one of the most extensive collections of movie-related and movie-studio links that I've found.

That's the great thing about favorite sites—there's always room in your bookmarks file for a couple more.

—CHRIS ZELL
czell@shore.net

Paging P.T. Barnum

While reading "Going, Going... Gouged!" by Charles Pappas [June '99, page 80], I felt little sympathy for Christina Platthy, who had spent \$1,815 for a fake Beanie Baby that she bought at auction on eBay. For starters, doesn't

she have a better way to spend her money? Furthermore, she appeared to make all of the mindless mistakes involved in such an expensive transaction (for example, paying by cashier's check, not getting a statement of authenticity, not using an escrow service, etc.). In such cases of fraud, I hate to subscribe to the "blame the victim" mentality, but clearly better judgment was needed here. Truly, a sucker is born every minute.

—DARREN TUTEK
tutek@u.washington.edu

Ad Placement: A Coincidence?

In the June '99 issue, an American Airlines full-page ad was placed in the middle of the article "Gold Star Sites: Travel" [page 128]. Although American Airlines was not mentioned in the article, its site does sell airline tickets. I am wondering what input, if any, American

had into its ad placement, or if the placement in the travel article was selected by the editorial staff.

—BRYAN SLOANE
bcs216@stern.nyu.edu

Advertisers may request positioning adjacent to sections of interest to them, but with no input or even information regarding content. The editorial staff does not select placement, but may reject it if a conflict is perceived. No conflict here. —Ed.

Why We Shouldn't Fear MP3

In response to John Mazurkiewicz's letter, "Music Now Has No Value," in the July '99 issue ["Backchat," page 32], I'd like to say that if he doesn't like how the MP3 format is being used, he should work within the system to change it. It's easy to throw one's hands up in the air and proclaim the downfall of an institu-

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tion, but it takes guts to fight for what's right. If he is afraid of making a CD with his music on it, only to have some "pirate" upload the songs to a Web site to be distributed for free, then he should be ready to sue the owner of the Web site and the person who uploaded it. What's the difference between that scenario and the "pirate" who copies the music to other CDs or cassette tapes for sale? Isn't Mazurkiewicz afraid of that, too?

Come on—every time a new medium is unveiled, the entertainment industry has a cow and predicts the end of their world because every Johnny Six-Pack can now copy their songs, or movies, or what have you, robbing them of their "rightful" income. Well, the world hasn't ended yet, and they're still churning out movies, songs, etc., at an ever-increasing pace.

To sum up: Get over it, and get on

with what you do. Protect the fruit of your labors, but don't go crying that the sky is falling until a large piece of *Mir* hits you on the head.

—LARRY FUGATE

lfugate@cefcu.com

Right On, Ann Beeson

Ann Beeson is right on the money [*"Y-Life Interview: Net Crusader,"* June '99, page 98]. There are a lot of people in the U.S. who want to take away our freedom. They include some organizations, the government, and law enforcement. I think the people behind the Child Online Protection Act (COPA) should be more concerned about kids shooting kids than about watching sex. We in the U.S. are too concerned about sex, but relish and encourage ourselves and our children to participate in activities that involve violence or violent con-

tent. Go, Ann! Go, Ann! Go, Ann!

—LAWRENCE PERLMUTTER

lawrence300@worldnet.att.net

Lost and Confused

In your June issue, you mention a cool Web sightings list, located at coolsights.listbot.com [*"Five E-Z Pieces,"* page 72]. When I go there, it says, "Unknown list." Is it at a different address?

—JAY GOLDINGER

sjg69@worldnet.att.net

Make sure you don't type www. before the address. Try it again; it should work just fine. —Ed.

'Kiss Your Cache Good-Bye'

Your suggestion on how to delete temporary files [*"E-Z User,"* June '99, page 72] is good as far as it goes. Contained in the same file with the temporary files, how-



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ever, are your cookie files, which can lead a curious person to any Web site from which you have accepted a cookie. These cookie files can be deleted by "Select All" and then "Delete." A less draconian approach would be to delete only those cookies left by sites to which you don't wish to leave a trail.

—ROBERT WILSON

takako@earthlink.net

Where Are People of Color?

Why is it that your magazine very rarely displays people of color? It is almost as if we don't exist. Your ads, your feature articles, and even your cartoons seem to suggest that we are not important. As a computer trainer and writer of a computer column in a local Baltimore newspaper, I find that such subliminal messages contribute to the continued stereotyping of nonwhite people.

—ERNIE O.

Owally@att.net

Rather than refer you to the many past instances in which Y-Life has featured people of color, we urge you to check out next month's issue. There you'll find an article by Farni Chideya, who, as part of our "How America Uses the Net" package, addresses how the races are represented on the Web. —Ed.

She Doesn't Find Hamster Blast a Blast

I find this site offensive and wish you would not put things like **Hamster Blast** [www.newgrounds.com/assassin/hamster] in your magazine ["Pretty Strange," June '99, page 152]. It would have belonged in the Pretty Sick section, if you had one. But you don't. Please think about whether the Web site would be offensive to some people before you put it in your magazine.

—JENNIFER FISKE

FroggyJenn@aol.com

Need to vent? Send your comments and questions to backchat@zd.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. If you wish to have your name or e-mail address withheld, please let us know.

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SITE ADDRESS GUIDE AUGUST 1999

Here's our handy tear-out card of the Web addresses in this issue.
Visit us online at www.yil.com/url for a clickable version.

Y-LIFE ONLINE THE LINKS YOU NEED TO EXPLORE THE OTHER HALF OF Y-LIFE

Daily Net Buzz: Give us one minute, and we'll give you the Web. www.dailynetbuzz.com

Yahoo! Internet Live: Today's best Net events. www.yilive.com

Freebies, Bargains, and Contests: There is such a thing as a free lunch. www.freebargain.com

Incredibly Useful Site of the Day: Help the Web help you. www.incrediblyuseful.com

Daily Double Download: Playful and practical shareware daily. www.doubledownload.com

Ask the Surf Guru: You've got questions; he's got answers. www.surf-guru.com

Pretty Strange: Sites your mother warned you about. www.prettystrange.com

Your Yastrologer: Your daily Net horoscope. www.yastrologer.com

Back Issues: Every edition of Y-Life since the beginning. www.yil.com/filters/toc/masterlist.html
Net Essentials: The bookmarks you must have. www.yil.com/essentials

FEATURES

WILL THE Y2K SKY REALLY FALL? (PAGES 108-112, 185)

- ☐ Gary North's Y2K Links and Forums www.garynorth.com
- ☐ The Year 2000 Disaster www.webleyweb.com/y2k/y2k.html
- ☐ Heritage West 2000 www.heritagefarms2000.com
- ☐ Y2K@Utne.com: Y2K Citizen's Action Guide www.utne.com/y2k
- ☐ ZDY2K www.zdnet.com/enterprise/zdy2k
- ☐ States of Readiness: The Race for Y2K Compliance www.cio.com/archive/040199_usamap.html
- ☐ Everything 2000 www.everything2000.com
- ☐ Victory Yacht Cruises victory-cruises.com/y2k_expeditions_chile.html

POP STARS (PAGES 116-120)

- ☐ Grand Royal Radio www.grandroyal.com/grRadio
- ☐ Atomic Pop www.atomicpop.com

SARAH SMILES (PAGES 122-123)

- ☐ Lilith Fair 1999 www.lilithfair.com
- ☐ 5 1/2 Weeks Tour alanisandtori.com
- ☐ Woodstock 99 www.woodstock.com

OUT OF TUNE (PAGES 124-128, 185)

- ☐ MP3.com www.mp3.com
- ☐ 5 1/2 Weeks Tour alanisandtori.com
- ☐ Liquid Audio www.liquidaudio.com
- Not Dead Yet**
- ☐ RealNetworks www.real.com

- ☐ MP3.com www.mp3.com
- ☐ MP3now www.mp3now.com
- ☐ Audiohighway.com www.audiohighway.com/mp3/index_mp3.html
- ☐ EMusic.com www.emusic.com
- ☐ Lycos MP3 Search mp3.lycos.com
- ☐ AMP3 Dot Com amp3.com
- ☐ MP3critic.com mp3critic.com
- ☐ Audiogalaxy www.audiogalaxy.com
- ☐ The MP3 Music Webring www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=mp3&list
- ☐ Scour.net: Downloadable Music scour.net/Downloadable_Music

I'M WITH THE BANDWIDTH (PAGES 130-131)

- ☐ eBay www.ebay.com
- ☐ First Auction www.firstauction.com
- ☐ Amazon.com Auctions auctions.amazon.com

THE 1999 ONLINE MUSIC AWARDS (PAGES 132-134)

Best Music Hub Sites

- ☐ SonicNet www.sonicnet.com
- ☐ Rocktropolis www.rocktropolis.com
- ☐ Wall of Sound www.wallofsound.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Music rock.yahoo.com
- ☐ MSN Entertainment musiccentral.msn.com/music/music.asp

Best Official Artist Sites

- ☐ Beastie Boys www.beastieboys.com
- ☐ Tori Amos www.tori.com
- ☐ David Bowie www.davidbowie.com
- ☐ Marilyn Manson www.marilynmanson.net

- ☐ Public Enemy www.public-enemy.com
- ☐ The Artist Formerly Known as Prince www.love4oneanother.com

Best Reference Sites

- ☐ Ultimate Band List www.ubl.com
- ☐ All-Music Guide www.allmusic.com
- ☐ IUMA: Internet Underground Music Archive www.iuma.com
- ☐ International Lyrics Server www.lyrics.ch/index.htm
- ☐ RollingStone.com: Artists A to Z www.rollingstone.com

Best Label Sites

- ☐ Virgin Records America www.virginrecords.com
- ☐ Capitol Records www.hollywoodandvine.com
- ☐ Geffen Records www.geffen.com
- ☐ Grand Royal Records www.grandroyal.com
- ☐ Rykodisc www.rykodisc.com
- ☐ Interscope Records www.interscope.com

Best News Sites

- ☐ MTV Online www.mtv.com
- ☐ Addicted to Noise www.addict.com
- ☐ Billboard: Daily Music Update www.billboard.com/daily
- ☐ iMusic News Agent imusic.interserv.com/newsagent/musicnews
- ☐ Spin.com www.spin.com

For Those Not About to Rock, We Salute You

- ☐ Blue Note Records www.bluenote.com
- ☐ Muddy Waters www.muddywaters.com
- ☐ Women of Country www.womenofcountry.com
- ☐ The Harry Smith Archives www.harrysmitharchives.com
- ☐ RootsWorld www.rootsworld.com/rw
- ☐ The Thomas A. Dorsey Foundation www.thomasdorsey.com
- ☐ LaMusica.com! LaMusica.com
- ☐ ClassicalNet www.classical.net
- ☐ NeoSwing neoswing.com
- ☐ Astralwerks.com www.astralwerks.com

PUSHING PILLS (PAGES 138-142)

- ☐ Drug Emporium www.drugemporium.com
- ☐ CVS www.cvs.com
- ☐ Walgreens www.walgreens.com
- ☐ Drugstore.com www.drugstore.com
- ☐ PlanetRx.com www.planetrx.com

- ☐ Soma.com www.soma.com
- ☐ HomePharmacy www.homepharmacy.com
- ☐ Rx.com www.rx.com
- ☐ The Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org
- ☐ TRUSTe www.truste.org
- Tyrannosaurus Rx**
- ☐ The People's Pharmacy
www.peoplespharmacy.com
- Doing Hard Time**
- ☐ Upagain.com upagain.com
- ☐ ConfiMed meds4men.com
- ☐ Viagra Cafe www.viagracafe.com
- RADIO DAZE (PAGES 148-152)**
- ☐ RealNetworks www.real.com
- ☐ vTuner www.vtuner.com
- ☐ 88hiphop.com 88hiphop.com
- ☐ Brainwash
monsterbit.com/brainwash
- ☐ Broadcast.com broadcast.com
- ☐ Web-Radio.FM web-radio.com
- ☐ ComedyNet comedynet.com
- ☐ ESPN Live Radio/TV
espn.go.com/liveradiotv
- ☐ Grand Royal Radio
grandroyal.com/grRadio
- ☐ Grit Internet Broadcasting grit.net
- ☐ Imagine Radio imageradio.com
- ☐ JamTV jamtv.com
- ☐ KCRW kcrw.com
- ☐ L.A. Live lalive.com
- ☐ The Law liveaudiowrestling.com
- ☐ LiveConcerts.com liveconcerts.com
- ☐ NPR Online npr.org
- ☐ Pseudo pseudo.com
- ☐ Radio 4 All www.radio4all.org
- ☐ Radio Margaritaville
margaritaville.com/RM2.htm
- ☐ The Shadow Radio Theater
www.shadowradio.org
- ☐ Spinner spinner.com
- ☐ TalkSpot talkspot.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Net Events
events.yahoo.com/Broadcasts

COLUMNS

ROGER EBERT: CRITICAL EYE (PAGE 79)

- ☐ MaxiVision
www.maxivisioncinema.com

ANNETTE HAMILTON: REALITY BYTES (PAGE 86)

- ☐ Kodak kodak75.photonet.com
- ☐ PhotoNet Online www.photonet.com
- ☐ Seattle FilmWorks.com
www.filmworks.com
- ☐ Outpost.com outpost.com
- ☐ Priceline.com priceline.com
- ☐ Free PC freepc.com
- ☐ DirectWeb directweb.com
- ☐ Enchilada www.enchilada.com
- ☐ Hand Technologies www.handtech.com

DEPARTMENTS

CLICK (PAGES 43-58)

- ☐ Jenny Jones www.jennyjones.com
- ☐ Food Network www.foodtv.com
- ☐ Alfred Hitchcock: Master of Suspense
nextdch.mty.itesm.mx/~plopezg/Kaplan/Hitchcock.html
- ☐ Catherine Zeta-Jones Page
colba.net/~solo/test/newcath
- ☐ The Yoga Site www.yogasite.com
- ☐ Amie's Offspring Homepage
members.xoom.com/theoffspring

Click News

- ☐ We The People www.wtp.org
- ☐ City of Oakland MapRoom
oaklandnet.com/maproom
- ☐ Oaklanders for Change
jerrybrown.org
- ☐ AsSeenIn.com AsSeenIn.com
- Click Home & Office**
- ☐ PalmCentral.com www.palmcentral.com
- ☐ eBay www.ebay.com
- ☐ Collectors Universe.com
www.collectorsuniverse.com
- ☐ Professional Sports Authenticator
www.psacard.com/ebay

- ☐ Professional Coin Grading Service
www.pcgs.com/ebay
- ☐ ForbesNet www.forbesnet.com
- ☐ Mydiscountbroker.com
www.mydiscountbroker.com
- ☐ InvesTrade www.investrade.com
- ☐ w-Trade www.w-trade.com
- ☐ Edocs www.edocs.com
- ☐ TransPoint www.transpoint.com

Click Personal

- ☐ South Beach Live WebCam
www.sofia.com/content/just/webcams/southbeach/cam.html
- ☐ Finnish Table Tennis WWW-Pages!
www.sci.fi/~mastor/thhome.htm
- ☐ Flea News www.ent.iastate.edu/FleaNews/aboutfleanews.html
- ☐ The Stomach & Bellybutton Page
www.belly-button.com
- ☐ Spanish Civil War: The Posters of the Spanish Revolution
bum.ucsd.edu/scwtable.htm
- ☐ NrrdGrrl! www.nrrdgrrl.com
- ☐ Angst Grrl www.angstgrrl.com
- ☐ RiotGrrl www.riotgrrl.com
- ☐ ObitDetails www.obitdetails.com
- ☐ Homestead www.homestead.com
- ☐ Tripod www.tripod.com
- ☐ PlanetOut www.planetout.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Clubs clubs.yahoo.com
- Click Games**
- ☐ GameSpot www.gamespot.com
- ☐ 3-D Snow Maze
www.facemaking.com/3dmaze
- ☐ GameGab.com www.gamegab.com
- ☐ LifeSavers Candystand
www.candystand.com
- ☐ Tomb Raider Nude Patch
www.game-revolution.com/download/lara.htm
- Click Forward: Yahoo! Internet Live**
- ☐ Yahoo! Internet Live
www.ylive.com
- ☐ The Great Shift Radio Program
www.inward.com

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- ❑ **Not the News**
www.talkspot.com/shows/Not_the_News
- ❑ **Budget Travel Chat**
www.ivillage.com/chat/fullschedule/0%2c2114%2cU%2c00.html
- ❑ **Watch with Wanda**
www.eonline.com/Reviews/Tube/Wanda
- ❑ **KoolOut Jazz** www.koolout.com
- ❑ **And Justice for Brawl**
static.pseudo.com/index.asp?showid=55
- ❑ **Punchline Pundits**
talkcity.com/calendar/events/event238.html
- ❑ **Raku Writing**
www.cat.nyu.edu/raku/about.html
- ❑ **P.O.V. Magazine: Office Romance**
talkcity.com/calendar/events/event3487.html
- ❑ **Psych Central**
chat13.go.com/webchat3.so?cmd=cmd_doorway:Psych_Central
- ❑ **19th Hole** www.sportsline.com/u/chat
- ❑ **Wonks** www.biztechtv.com
- ❑ **Off the Wall** talkcity.com/calendar/events/event1424.html
- ❑ **Saturday Nite Astro Chat**
communities.msn.com/astronomy/chat.asp
- ❑ **Five Element Feng Shui** www.talkspot.com/shows/5_Elements_of_Feng_Shui
- ❑ **Millennium Stage Concerts**
www.kennedy-center.org/millennium
- ❑ **Click Forward: Up & Coming**
- ❑ **Mystery Men** www.mysterymen.com
- ❑ **Outside Providence** www.miramax.com
- ❑ **Motown.com** www.motown.com
- ❑ **Smokey Robinson and the Miracles**
www.srv.net/~roxtar/robinson_smokey.html
- ❑ **Me'shell Ndegeocello**
www.maverickrc.com/meshell
- ❑ **Me'shell Ndegeocello sound and video clips**
geocities.com/BourbonStreet/Delta/2833
- ❑ **Gilcrease Museum** www.gilcrease.org/2tour.html
- ❑ **Click Charts**
- ❑ **Ask Jeeves** www.askjeeves.com
- ❑ **Ticketmaster Online** www.ticketmaster.com
- ❑ **Media Metrix** www.mediametrix.com

- ❑ **Amazon.com** www.amazon.com
- ❑ **Rolling Stone Radio network** rsradio.com
- ❑ **eBay** www.ebay.com
- ❑ **StarChefs** www.starchefs.com
- ❑ **Click Attitude**
- ❑ **Greenpeace's Global Whale Sanctuary Petition**
www.greenpeaceusa.org/save/alerts/whalepetition.htm

E-Z USER (PAGES 62-69)

- ❑ **Yahoo!** www.yahoo.com
- ❑ **LookSmart** www.looksmart.com
- ❑ **AltaVista** www.altavista.com
- ❑ **Infoseek** www.infoseek.com
- ❑ **SubmitIt!** www.submitit.com
- ❑ **!Register-It!** www.registerit.com
- ❑ **Search Engine Watch**
www.searchenginewatch.com
- ❑ **Pagoo** www.pagoo.com
- ❑ **ZDNet Software Library** www.hotfiles.com
- ❑ **Ask the Surf Guru** www.surf-guru.com
- ❑ **Split Files Shell Extension**
www.essl.fr/~berger/Windows/split.html
- ❑ **Learn the Net** www.learnthenet.com
- ❑ **Mr.Wakeup** www.mrwakeup.com
- ❑ **TypingMaster** www.typingtest.com
- ❑ **Neat Net Tricks** www.neatnettricks.com
- ❑ **Daily Double Download**
www.doubledownload.com
- ❑ **DaveCentral Shareware Archive**
www.davecentral.com
- ❑ **iSpeed for Windows**
www.hms.com/ispeed.htm
- ❑ **Onelist** www.onelist.com
- ❑ **Lernout & Hauspie** www.lhsl.com
- ❑ **ZDNet Mail** www.zdnetmail.com
- ❑ **Yahoo! Mail** mail.yahoo.com
- ❑ **Hotmail** www.hotmail.com
- ❑ **Net@ddress** www.netaddress.com
- ❑ **Bigfoot** www.bigfoot.com
- ❑ **Anonymous e-Mail 4 Free!**
anon.isp.ee
- ❑ **Replay Associates, L.L.P. Remailer**
www.replay.com/remailer/anon.html

- ❑ **Anonymizer.com** www.anonymizer.com
- ❑ **Net E-Z User** www.ezuser.com

E-Z SHOPPER (PAGE 70-72)

- ❑ **Harvie & Hudson** www.harvieandhudson.com
- ❑ **PrimeLinx** www.primelinx.com
- ❑ **TanTowel** www.tantowel.com
- ❑ **Doctor Hoy's** www.doctorhoy.com
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- ❑ **SalesCircular** www.salescircular.com
- ❑ **StampsOnline** www.stampsonline.com
- ❑ **Amazon.com Auctions**
auctions.amazon.com
- ❑ **Garden.com** www.garden.com

COOL TOOLS (PAGES 74-76)

- ❑ **Interlink Electronics**
www.interlinkelectronics.com
- ❑ **LEGO MindStorms** www.legomindstorms.com
- ❑ **Hagiwara Sys-Com U.S.** www.hscus.com
- ❑ **ThrustMaster** www.thrustmaster.com
- ❑ **Intel** www.intel.com
- ❑ **Theatre Design Associates**
www.theatredesign.com

TOUCHED BY THE NET (PAGES 91-92)

- ❑ **Scorecard** www.scorecard.org
- ❑ **June 4** www.june4.org
- ❑ **Wanna Bet?** www.wannabet.org
- ❑ **Beauty Is...** www.beautyis.com
- ❑ **Tidepool** www.tidepool.org
- ❑ **Web Genocide Documentation Centre**
www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/genocide.htm

Y-LIFE INTERVIEW: NET MONITOR (PAGES 98-104)

- ❑ **Cyberwatch** www.wiesenthal.com/watch
- ❑ **Simon Wiesenthal Center** www.wiesenthal.org
- ❑ **Museum of Tolerance Multimedia Learning Center** motlc.wiesenthal.com

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- ☐ Martin Luther King Jr: A Historical Examination mlking.org

INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITES (PAGES 144-145)

- ☐ Hospital Select www.hospitalselect.com/curb_db/owa/sp_hospselect.hosp_data
- ☐ U.S. News Online's business school comparison www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/beyond/grad/gradmba.htm
- ☐ Nutrition Analysis Tool www.ag.uiuc.edu/~food-lab/nat/mainnat.html
- ☐ SafetyAlerts.com www.safetyalerts.com
- ☐ RealGuide realguide.real.com
- ☐ Computershopper.com's Decision Guides www.wizard.cshopper.com
- ☐ Operabase operabase.com
- ☐ NameStorm www.namestorm.com
- ☐ FindaHost.com www.findahost.com
- ☐ Artcyclopedia artcyclopedia.com
- ☐ Jester shadow.leor.berkeley.edu/humor
- ☐ Incredibly Useful Site of the Day www.incrediblyuseful.com

OLD WAY/NET WAY (PAGES 154-155)

- ☐ MSN Expedia Travel expedia.msn.com
- ☐ Travelocity.com www.travelocity.com
- ☐ Hotel Discounts hoteldiscounts.com
- ☐ Fresh Air with Terry Gross www.why.org/freshair
- ☐ Ladder Man Online www.ladder.com
- ☐ Netmarket www.netmarket.com

NEW, NOTABLE & FUN (PAGES 158-159)

- ☐ Snap www.snap.com
- ☐ Deja.com www.deja.com
- ☐ About.com www.about.com
- ☐ MyBegin www.mybegin.com
- ☐ TechPointer.com www.techpointer.com
- ☐ OowJones.com dowjones.com
- ☐ Quote.com www.quote.com
- ☐ InfoSpace.com www.infospace.com
- ☐ Stories of the Dreaming www.dreamtime.net.au

- ☐ ArtMuseum.net www.artmuseum.net
- ☐ Womanrock.com www.womanrock.com
- ☐ OFFO: Tribute to the Dictators members.aol.com/dffd123
- ☐ HomeGain.com www.homegain.com
- ☐ MovieQuest www.moviequest.com
- ☐ American Movie Classics www.amctv.com
- ☐ Japanorama www.japanorama.com
- ☐ Icelandic Models www.icelandicmodels.is
- ☐ PlanetRider www.planetrider.com
- ☐ Bid 4 Vacations www.bid4vacations.com
- ☐ Hacked Sites of the Future? www.2600.com/hacked_pages/prop
- ☐ Rock.com: Rock School www.rock.com/scripts/gate.cfm?rfd=1

PRETTY STRANGE (PAGE 186)

- ☐ Useless Knowledge www.uselessknowledge.com
- ☐ The Comic Book PeriodicTable of the Elements www.uky.edu/~holler/periodic/periodic.html
- ☐ Product www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Alley/8069/product.html
- ☐ IRA (Insect Rights Activists) www.throughwire.com
- ☐ Snarg www.snarg.net
- ☐ Operation Egg Crackdown www.yoderanium.com/webhome/antiegge
- ☐ Pretty Strange Sites www.prettystrange.com

"THE BEST" OF WEB SITE REVIEWS

NUCLEAR LEGACY (PAGE 160)

- ☐ The High Energy Weapons Archive www.fas.org/nuke/hew
- ☐ Trinity Atomic Web Site www.enviroweb.org/enviroissues/nuketesting
- ☐ The Atomic Archive www.atomicarchive.com

WOODSTOCK (PAGE 163)

- ☐ 1969 Woodstock Festival & Concert www.woodstock69.com
- ☐ Woodstock '69 Lives!!! www.netwalk.com/~ailes/woodstock.html

FOOD STORES (PAGES 164-166)

- ☐ NetGrocer www.netgrocer.com
- ☐ Peapod www.peapod.com

RESEARCHING MEDICAL PROBLEMS (PAGE 168)

- ☐ CenterWatch Clinical Trials Listing Service www.centerwatch.com
- ☐ DrKoop.com www.drkoop.com
- ☐ Healthfinder www.healthfinder.gov

REALITY TV (PAGE 170)

- ☐ COPSwatch www.specmind.com/copswatch.htm

GOLF (PAGE 172)

- ☐ Golf Online.com www.golffonline.com

OUTDOOR COOKING (PAGE 174)

- ☐ Weber www.weberbbq.com

AMUSEMENT PARKS (PAGE 176)

- ☐ OIG: Disneyland Information Guide members.aol.com/alweho/docs/contents.htm
- ☐ The Happiest Potties on Earth members.aol.com/DLPotties
- ☐ Hidden Mickey's www.hiddenmickeys.org
- ☐ Yesterland www.mcs.net/~werner/yester.html

SPACE EXPLORATION (PAGE 178)

- ☐ NASA www.nasa.gov
- ☐ Earth from Space: An Astronaut's Views of the Home Planet earth.jsc.nasa.gov
- ☐ NASA Human Spaceflight shuttle.nasa.gov
- ☐ Historical Archive www.ksc.nasa.gov/history/history.html

PETS (PAGE 180)

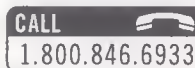
- ☐ The Pet Channel www.thepetchannel.com

STARTING A BUSINESS (PAGE 182)

- ☐ U.S. Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
- ☐ CFOL.com: Commercial Finance Online! www.cfol.com

r more and Internet access is included for a year.¹

Everywhere you look there's a URL (especially when you're looking at this page). So if you're not online, or you're currently paying every month for the privilege, now's your chance. A year's Internet access¹ is included with Gateway Essential PCs with a base configuration value of \$999 or more. And with our Your:WareSM program, you make low monthly payments and after two years, you can trade your PC in toward the purchase of a new one.² Okay, now tear out this card and carry it around for inspiration.



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The Gateway™ Essential Line: powerful PCs at practical prices.

Okay, maybe you don't need an astrophysics supercomputer. But you still want a fast processor and ample memory and drive space. Look no further than Gateway Essential PCs. With video and sound support and Intel® processors—and affordable prices—they're compromise-free PCs. Each one includes a year on the Internet.¹ Pick a model, and we'll customize it the way you want.

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GCS-200 Speakers by Cambridge® SoundWorks
56K³ Internet/Fax Modem
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Corel® WordPerfect® Suite 8 Software
1-Year gateway.net™ Internet Access¹

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13.6GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
40X Max² Variable CD-RDM
SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64D
GCS-200 Speakers by Cambridge SoundWorks
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Microsoft Windows 98
Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Software
1-Year gateway.net Internet Access¹

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13.6GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64D
GCS-200 Speakers by Cambridge SoundWorks
56K³ Internet/Fax Modem
Canon Color Printer
Microsoft Windows 98
MS® Works Suite 99 Software
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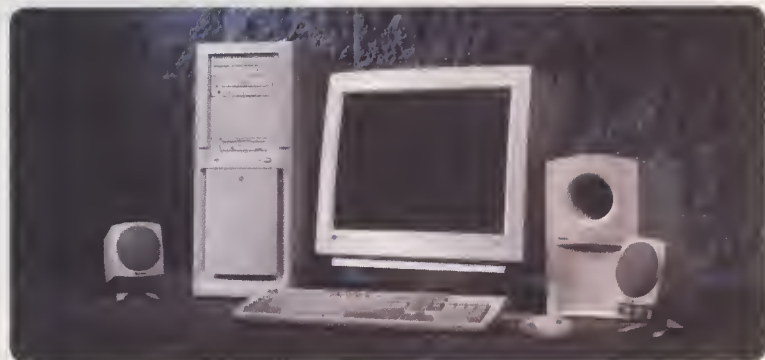
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SoundBlaster® AudioPCI™ 64D
Boston Acoustics® BA735™ Digital Speakers w/ Subwoofer
3Com® U.S. Robotics® 56K³ PCI Voice Ready WinModem®
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EV7DD .28 Screen Pitch 17" Monitor (15.9" viewable)
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13.5GB Ultra ATA 66 7200 RPM Hard Drive
6X DVD-ROM Drive & MPEG2 Decoder
SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64D
Boston Acoustics BA735 Digital Speakers w/ Subwoofer
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8-Bay Mid-Tower Case
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MS Works Suite 99 Software

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YourWare program*

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Gateway Performance 550

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VX9DD .26 Screen Pitch 19" Monitor (18" viewable)
32MB NVIDIA RIVA TNT2 AGP Graphics
13.5GB Ultra ATA 66 7200 RPM Hard Drive
6X DVD-ROM Drive & MPEG2 Decoder
SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64D
Boston Acoustics BA735 Digital Speakers w/ Subwoofer
3Com U.S. Robotics 56K³ PCI Voice Ready WinModem
8-Bay Mid-Tower Case
Microsoft Windows 98
MS Works Suite 99 Software

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Upgrade to an 18GB Hard Drive - \$110

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TV/FM Tuner Card
22GB Ultra ATA 66 7200 RPM Hard Drive
6X DVD-ROM Drive & MPEG2 Decoder
Philips® CD-RW (CD-Rewritable) Drive w/Media
SoundBlaster Live!Value with Digital Audio Output
Boston Acoustics Digital MediaTheater™ Dolby® Digital 3-Piece Speaker System
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10-Bay Tower Case

Microsoft Windows 98

MS Office 2000 Small Business Software



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- Mouse
- Year 2000 Compliance⁴
- 3-Year Parts & Labor Limited Warranty / 1-Year On-site Warranty Service**

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Super Solvers® Mission T.H.I.N.K.™
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Reader Rabbit's Math Ages 6-9
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Schoolhouse Rock®: Grammar Rock®
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Printer **\$179**

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LIFESTYLES OF THE WELL CONNECTED



JENNY JONES

[www.jennyjones.com]

In the wake of losing a \$25 million lawsuit involving a *Jenny Jones Show* guest who killed a fellow guest, the controversial schlock talk-show hostess is getting back to business—and getting online. “I realized [the benefits of] the Web when my producer’s sister was diagnosed (and eventually, it turned out, misdiagnosed) with lymphoma.” Jones scoured the Net for cancer research. Now, “there’s not a weekend I’m not responding to fan e-mail...women asking me about implant concerns,” she says, referring to her own publicized breast-implant problems. Jones sees herself as Net-savvy, whether buying her sister a computer so they can swap e-mail or digging up stadium seating plans for her baseball-loving fiancé. Good deeds done, Jones visits the *Food Network* [www.foodtv.com] in search of recipes, then posts photos of the results on her site. Not such a bad girl after all? You be the judge.

JONES: WARNER BROS.; HITCHCOCK: THOMAS REIS; ZETA-JONES: TERRY DOYLE/OUTLINE; OFFSPRING: JAY BLAKESBURG



MEMORABLE SITE

One for ‘The Birds’

ALFRED HITCHCOCK: MASTER OF SUSPENSE
[nextdch.mty.itsm.mx/~plopezg/Kaplan/Hitchcock.html]

“Drama,” said the late Alfred Hitchcock, “is life with the dull bits left out.” And he would know. The director, best known for his rotund profile, droll demeanor, and misogynistic tendencies (as well as for such films as *Psycho*, *The Birds*, and *Vertigo*), was as dramatic as his movies. Before assuming his diva-esque proportions, Hitchcock was just a lad in Leytonstone, England, born 100 years ago above his family’s modest fruit and vegetable shop. Yes, there actually was a human being beneath that double chin, and an 18-year-old student in Mexico wants to help you find him. Patricio Lopez-Guzman’s Web site includes an annotated filmography, lengthy essays, and a Hitchcock on TV page. It’s a good complement to a centennial film festival (if you’re lucky enough to find one), or for people eager to, as Hitch once said, “put their toe in the cold water of fear.” How very dramatic.

—M.F.

THE CLICK CLIQUE: Jonathan Adams, Steven J. Bennett, James Oliver Cury, Dean Foust, Michael Freidson, David Kushner, Marc Saltzman. **Write to Click@zd.com.**



NET OBSESSIONS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & TRENDS



CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

It’s easy to figure out why many have dubbed her “the female Steve McQueen”: This star of *Entrapment* drives surfers mad with her dangerous ways. **YAHOO!**
SITE COUNT: 11. Start @:
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES PAGE
[colba.net/~solo/test/newcath]



YOGA

After all the “face time” Netheads give to their PC monitors, a few premillennium soul-searching exercises are probably in order. There’s no shortage of sites devoted to the Hindu art of stretching your muscles *and* your mind. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 303. Start @: **THE YOGA SITE** [www.yogasite.com]



OFFSPRING

The punks continue to generate more Web buzz than Sugar Ray and wannabes who think they’re pretty fly for white guys. **YAHOO!**
SITE COUNT: 31. Start @:
AMIE’S OFFSPRING HOMEPAGE
[members.xoom.com/theoffspring]

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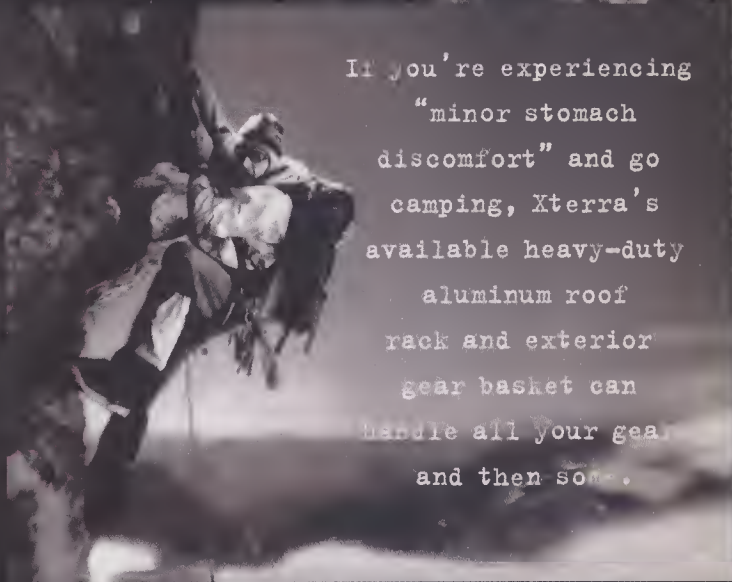
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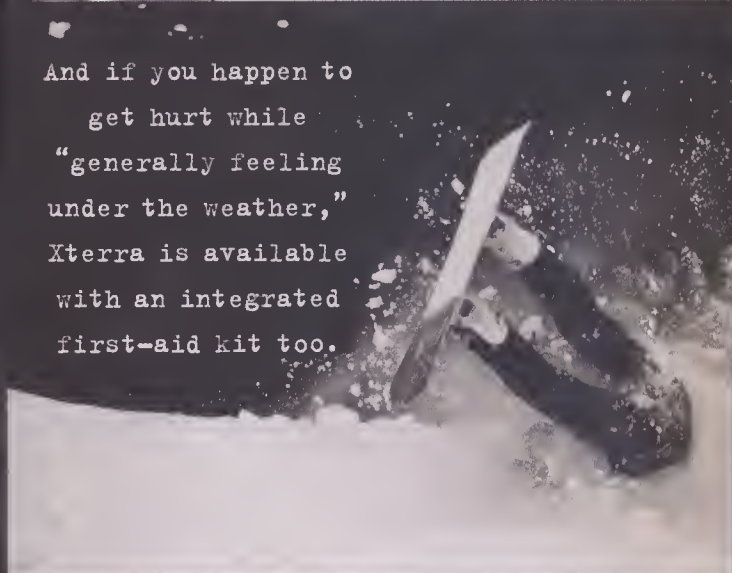
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discomfort" and go
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under the weather,"
Xterra is available
with an integrated
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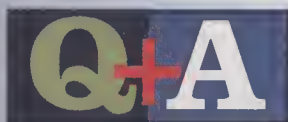


Or anything else you might do while "nursing
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JERRY BROWN

Gov. Moonbeam:
Net Veteran



The mayor of Oakland and former California governor found the Net long before his pol peers.

Y-LIFE: What were some of your early digital feats?

BROWN: As governor, I signed a tax credit for computers in schools [upon the suggestion of Apple founder Steve Jobs], and we had a GEnie account and a chat line for my 1992 presidential campaign. No one else was doing it. And in 1995, I set up my **WE THE PEOPLE** site [www.wtp.org].

Y-LIFE: And what about today?

BROWN: Primarily, it's for research. I want to know things, read a Supreme Court bill, check out a quote. I wanted to quote Martin Luther King, so I went to a site about him. I needed to call the head of the NFL, so I clicked to **NFL.COM**.

Y-LIFE: And how is the Web working for your Oakland constituency?

BROWN: You can tap into our **MAPROOM** [oaklandnet.com/maproom] and see a chart of crimes from the night before, and charts and graphs showing crime trends going back in time. You can put your address in, and it will show you crime statistics in that neighborhood. [Citizens] can also write to jerrybrown.org about issues that concern them.

Y-LIFE: Do you get the sense that people want our legislators to restrict online content, be it sexual material or bomb-making tips?

BROWN: I'd be careful about trying to regulate stuff. Otherwise, you just get the government trying to interfere with this thing. I mean, censorship has always been a loser.

"The Net won't change everything, but it's one more tool to overcome the destiny of biology."

—NET PUNDIT AND VENTURE CAPITALIST ESTHER DYSON, on the gender-leveling effects of communicating on the Web.

6699

"My mom, like everybody else's, is a big worrywart. I e-mail her every three days just to let her know I'm still kicking."

—PETTY OFFICER JOSHUA BROWN, a 22-year-old medic stationed in Kosovo, on how e-mail keeps up his mother's morale—and his own.

NET BRIEFS

SURE BEATS AN APPLE. Thanks to a \$2.25 billion Federal Communications Commission program, teachers in an estimated 528,000 classrooms in

disadvantaged schools will get Net access for their students. Who's footing the bill? The FCC will collect fees from telephone companies, which could pass the cost on to customers.... **MONEY**

PROBLEMS. In May, the Securities and Exchange Commission fined Net broker Datek Online \$50,000 for filing a false financial report and

using customer money to pay its own bills. The sanction is one example of the SEC's new commitment to monitoring the online trading business.... **ONLINE TRADING, BY THE WAY, IS A BOOMING BUSINESS.** Not only has powerhouse Merrill Lynch logged on, but, thanks to competition from such online after-hours trading services as Eclipse Trading and Wit Capital, the Nasdaq stock exchange will implement evening trading hours sometime next month.... **A FEDERAL CASE.** In May, the FBI's

Web site was forced to shut down temporarily after a bombardment of e-mails overwhelmed its servers. The so-called denial-of-service

attack was presumably launched by a hacker group called Global Hell, whose mail-happy members were served with search warrants shortly before the hit.... **AARON SPELLING**, whose *Melrose Place* series finale was simulcast on the Web, has started AsSeenIn.com, an e-commerce site that takes visitors on a virtual tour of the sets of Spelling



CHARMED

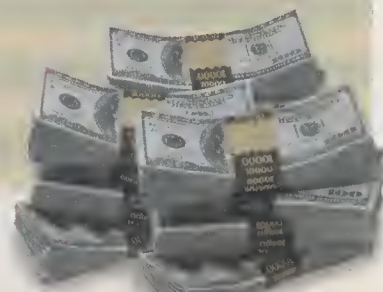
shows (such as *Charmed* and *7th Heaven*) and then allows them to purchase replicas of everything from furniture to board games to—oh, yes—clothes.... **SHAKY INFORMATION.** This spring, hundreds of scared Peruvians slept in the streets of their capital after a fake e-mail message predicted a huge earthquake. A South American radio station spread the "news." Although authorities reported at least seven cases of hypertension, there was no word on the health status of doom-fearing Quake players. —M.F.

BIG SURFERS DO CRY

When you're talking Net stocks, it's all in the timing. Recently, *Y-Life* computed just how much money a prescient investor could have made if he or she had bought a mere 100 shares of selected hot Net stocks on their first day of trading, then held on through ups, downs, splits, and mergers. Read now, cry later.

COMPANY	ORIGINAL IPO VALUE (DATE)	RECENT VALUE*
Yahoo!	\$2,450 (4/96)	\$83,132
Cisco	\$2,300 (2/90)	\$761,715
Broadcast.com	\$6,800 (7/98)	\$20,849
eBay	\$5,250 (9/98)	\$44,854
Amazon.com	\$2,925 (5/97)	\$70,178.49

*5/27/99



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or visit our web site. Whichever way you choose, you'll end up with a mailbox full of dirt.

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xterra1.com



DRIVEN.

TOOLS

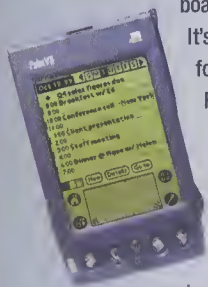
You're not the first to notice that many PalmPilot users treat their handhelds with the care and pride they'd lavish on a newborn baby. But they're getting even more animated with the release of 3Com's Net-connected Palm VII. And now these proud parents have **PALMCENTRAL.COM** [www.palmcentral.com], a portal-like source of PalmPilot tips, downloadable software, discussion boards, and chats.

It's where we found user Rocco Rizzo, who protects his screen with clear plastic report covers cut to size. Piloters looking for this

hub on their Palm VII's will find themselves grounded, but plans are in the works for the site to host a Palm VII "channel" in coming months.

SHOPPING

Not sure whether that autographed Joe DiMaggio baseball card for sale at **EBAY** [www.ebay.com] is the real McCoy? There's no need to wonder anymore, because eBay has teamed up with **COLLECTORS UNIVERSE.COM** [www.collectorsuniverse.com], a hobbyists hub, to offer the site's verification services to eBay auction-goers bidding on trading cards and coins. Sellers can authenticate their wares before going on the auction block by sending the items to the card- or coin-checking service [www.psacard.com/eBay; www.pcgs.com/eBay]—and get a discount, too. Verified items will sport a seal of authenticity.



MONEY

Yank the Wire

A question for online traders: Ever get the urge to buy or sell when you're nowhere near a PC? If so, welcome the cure for your newfound ulcer: Investors using the **FORBESNET** [www.forbesnet.com], **MYDISCOUNTBROKER.COM** [www.mydiscountbroker.com], and **INVESTRADE** [www.investrade.com] online brokerages can now place and confirm stock trades, pull down stock quotes and news alerts, and check account balances—all from their handheld devices, two-way pagers, and cell phones. These Net brokers are using a new system from **W-TRADE** [www.w-trade.com] to offer such wireless services, albeit at a premium: Using Mydiscountbroker, you can shell out as much as \$60 above your usual monthly trading costs. Still, Fred McClimans, chairman and CEO of Current Analysis, a Sterling, Virginia-based research firm, thinks that cutting the digital tether on Net brokerages may finally throw wireless services into the mainstream. "Wireless trading will skyrocket over the next two to three years," predicts McClimans, though he's not necessarily jubilant about his forecast: "The easier you make trading, the more investing becomes akin to gambling." And for the casual investor, easier is not always better.



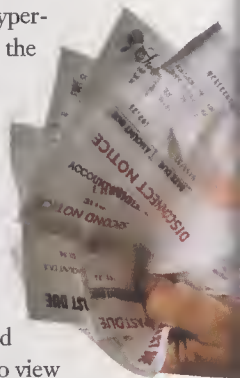
search results	
BAD, BAD, BAD	
Bad Company	6,454
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly ..	5,700
Men Behaving Badly	2,019
Hermione Baddeley	160

EVERETT COLLECTION



MONEY

Sure, your creditors would love to save a few bucks by delivering your bills online. And why not? If you're already paying bills online, online dunning can complete your digital bookkeeping scenario; you simply respond to an "e-bill" by indicating the amount you want to fork over and clicking "Pay Bill." If you're still writing checks and licking stamps, online billing may just be what spurs you to digitize your debits and credits. After all, it's not exactly rocket science. Some systems deliver bills within e-mail; a hyperlink within the document takes you to the vendor's secure site, where you enter your account number and password to view your latest debts. See for yourself how it works by clicking through a great demo at **EDOCS** [www.edocs.com]. Another flavor of e-billing, from **TRANSPPOINT** [www.transpoint.com], combines bills from several of its creditor-partners onto a single site. You visit the site to check on your bills. Stay tuned for new, even more convenient approaches, such as bill delivery via your bank's Web site or through such Web portals as Yahoo! and Lycos. In any event, that "I never got the bill" alibi might not work much longer.



—D.F.

—S.J.B.

**FROM
SMALL
BUSINESS**

**TO
e-BUSINESS
OVERNIGHT**

MONDAY. 6:00 A.M. Half the world's been up for hours. Buying. Selling. Making deals. When you get in, you may find your small business has grown. Because all night, every night, the tool on your desk has been minding the store, thanks to the **IBM small business Internet solution** – just one of the e-business advantages of the IBM small business program.

START WITH the IBM PC 300[®]GL – **priced right for small businesses** – and add IBM HomePage Creator[™]. Together, they're just what you need to put your business on the Internet in about a day. Customize your PC the way you want, with Intel[®] processors and IBM accessories and upgrades. With IBM financing¹ for small business, you can get exactly what you need. And if you'd like help, we offer world-class IBM **service and support** designed just for small businesses.

SMALL
BUSINESS

INTERNET
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IBM HomePage Creator is the point-and-click online Web site creation tool that lets you set up your home page and conduct e-commerce easily, with IBM Web site hosting plus credit card transaction processing.

\$39.95 per month

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BUY IT.

Go to **www.ibm.com/smallbusiness/sb410** to find out more.

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IBM PC 300GL

Intel Celeron[™] processor 400MHz²

32MB RAM • 4.2GB³ HDD

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S3 Trio3D AGP Graphics

Microsoft[®] Windows[®] 98

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for Small Business

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CUSTOMIZE YOURS⁵:

56K Modem ⁶	\$89*	or \$3/month¹
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100MB IDE Internal Zip Drive	\$95*	or \$3/month¹

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Pentium[®] III processor 500MHz

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IBM ViaVoice[™] 98

Microsoft Office Small Business Edition

Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition

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SuccessLease[™]
for Small Business

\$70/MONTH¹



CUSTOMIZE YOURS⁵:

19" Monitor (17.9" viewable)	\$589*	or \$22/month¹
10/20GB Tape Drive	\$335*	or \$12/month¹
Color Flatbed Scanner	\$149*	or \$6/month¹

IBM



*Estimated reseller price to end users for PC 300 Model #6287-4BU, 6277-98U, 15" Monitor Model #65460AN, Modem Part #33L4618, Memory Part #01K1136, Zip Drive Part #20L0544, 19" Monitor Model #65494AN, Tape Drive Part #20L0549, Scanner Model #0275011. ¹SuccessLease is offered and administered in the US and Canada by Fidelity Leasing Inc., an approved provider of business financing for IBM Global Financing. All terms are provided by Fidelity Leasing Inc., amount of monthly lease payments based on 36-month term, full payout lease, to qualified business customers, installing in the US. A documentation fee and first month payment due at lease signing. Any taxes are additional. Other terms and financing structures are available. Offer may be withdrawn or changed without notice. ²MHz denotes microprocessor internal clock speed; other factors may affect application performance. ³GB means one billion bytes when referring to hard drive capacity. Accessible capacity may vary. ⁴May be preloaded, included on a CD, or available on a CD at no charge. ⁵Options must be leased with system unit. ⁶These modems are designed to be capable of receiving data up to 56Kbps from a compatible service provider, and transmitting data at up to 31.2Kbps. Public networks currently limit maximum download speeds to about 53Kbps. Actual speeds depend on many factors and are often less than the maximum possible. ⁷Variable read rate. Actual playback speed will vary and is often less than the maximum possible. All PCs in this ad ship with an operating system. All product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Lotus and Lotus SmartSuite are registered trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation, an IBM company. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and Celeron is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. ©1999 IBM Corp. All rights reserved.

WEBCAMWATCH



SOUTH BEACH

SOUTH BEACH LIVE WEBCAM

[www.sofla.com/content/just/webcams/southbeach/cam.html]

Miami's South Beach hype machine is out to make us all feel miserable. While we're slaving away in windowless cubicles, beautiful people wearing thongs are rolling in Hawaiian Tropic after late-night limbo sessions with Madonna, right? Well, not exactly, but why don't you see for yourself? If you want the word from the front lines, tune in to the **SOUTH BEACH LIVE WEBCAM** and chat it up with the locals on the SoFla hub. They will regale you with stories about the half-hour lines at Baja Beach Club. Is that an incentive to visit, or what?

EXTREEMELY SPECIALIZED SITES

FINISH TABLE TENNIS WWW-PAGES!
www.sci.fi/~masto/tthome.htm

FLEA NEWS
www.ent.iastate.edu/FleaNews/aboutfleaews.html

THE STOMACH & BELLYBUTTON PAGE
www.belly-button.com

SPANISH CIVIL WAR: THE POSTERS OF THE SPANISH REVOLUTION
burn.ucsd.edu/scwtable.htm



W E B V I L L E

DROPPING IN ON SOME OF THE NET'S GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES

GRRLS, GRRLS, GRRLS

Remember when bad girls actually seemed bad? A few years ago, self-proclaimed Riot Grrls hit the underground music, zine, and film scenes (and eventually the Web)

with electric guitars, black fingernails, and, most of all, high-voltage attitude. These days, the grrl alias is an indie cred stamp for young Webmistresses out to set themselves apart from the crowd. One such lair for grrls is **NRDGRRL!** [www.nrdgrrl.com], which, despite some hawking for Amazon.com, stays true to the punky principles of its predecessors. The site's *Grrrowl!* e-zine and accompanying message boards are where desktop Sylvia Plaths publish melancholy poetry, spew about their moms, and rant about gnarly uniforms: "[My] school has a dress code and it bites but not as much as it used to," posts one Nrrd. "Anyways it makes it easier to get dressed and you can spend more money on shoes and jewelry stuff." Hmmm. Elsewhere, **ANGST GRRL** [www.angstgrrl.com] urges surfers to "feel the angst" and discuss Bible camps, unisex porta-potties, or, like, whatever. Falling in line with grrl-site chic, the emphasis is on substance, not style, which probably accounts for why almost everything is text-based. Fittingly, the site that uses the actual **RIOTGRRL** moniker [www.riotgrrl.com] is the slickest commune of all. Here, visitors exchange old-fashioned boy stories and debate whether Gillian Anderson could whup a supermodel's butt in a brawl. The salon's chipper hostesses urge everyone to join the do-it-yourself party: "Don't be left out!" they post. Hey, isn't alienation cool anymore?



RIOTGRRL

DEAD LOVED ONES' SOCIETY

If you're the cyberdelic Timothy Leary, you off yourself online, then rocket your ashes into outer

space. The less exotic (read: *the rest of society*) may get a tribute page at **OBITDETAILS** [www.obitdetails.com], the latest site to join the ranks of dead-pet, dead-relative, and even dead-celebrity memorial sites. The idea: Buy a little bandwidth (for a \$145 one-time registration fee; \$65 additional per memorial) and create an eternal online tribute for your dearly departed friend or relative. ObitDetails lets mourners post obituaries with eulogies, pictures, and even such practical information as directions to the deceased's grave. It's a novel idea, but any family with a little willpower could form the same kind of community within a free home page service such as **HOMESTEAD** [www.homestead.com] or **TRIPOD** [www.tripod.com].

OUT WITH IT

Since its big bang in 1994, **PLANETOUT** [www.planetout.com; AOL Keyword: PlanetOut] has become the Web's equivalent of the Castro in San Francisco or New York's Chelsea. This hub for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transsexuals is a catty, chatty home for such niche communities as Dykesville and Transland, where members dis divas and discuss hate crimes. For the less interactive, there's kick-back-and-watch original programming such as *Video Adventures*. The kinder, gentler AOL face of this service has rubbed off on its Web sister, making it one of the most easy-to-surf destinations, gay or otherwise. —D.K.

TOP CLUBS

The most popular Yahoo! clubs. To visit each, type **clubs.yahoo.com** and then the club name.

CLUBS.YAHOO.COM

- 1 Hanson ▶
- 2 Boyfriend and Girlfriend Alley
- 3 A Pen Pal Club
- 4 Married and Flirting
- 5 'N Sync Official Club
- 6 Daytraders
- 7 Real Time Strategy
- 8 Yahoo! Pen Pals Club
- 9 Internet Stock News
- 10 South Park

Rankings reflect May data.



RIOTGRRL: MARK ZINGARELLI; HANSON: SHOOTING HANSON/OLY

>> This is getting ridiculous.
>> Creams don't work. Plucking
>> hurts too much. And waxing's
>> only good for a week.

> There's a really good
> electrolysis place right on
> 57th near 8th.

Photo courtesy of Anthony's Electrolysis, 101 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10119-2100

> Exchange ideas on practically anything.



THE PLAYERS

MULTIPLAYER PICKS

The five most popular game titles in the America Online Games area.

1 SLINGO

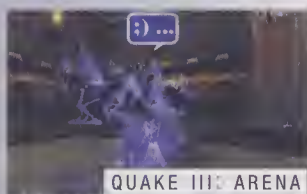
2 Strike-A-Match

3 Out-of-Order

4 Casino Poker*

5 Spades*

Rankings reflect total hours played during May. Asterisk (*) indicates premium game.



TOP DEMOS

GameSpot's most downloaded titles.

1 QUAKE III: ARENA

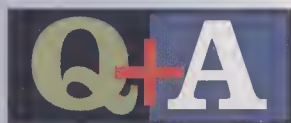
2 Episode I: The Gungan Frontier

3 MechWarrior 3

4 Railroad Tycoon II—2nd Century

5 X-Wing Alliance

Rankings reflect May downloads at www.gamespot.com



STEPHEN LESNICK

(aka "Astronomer") is an engineer from Silver Spring,

Maryland. He's an aficionado of Firaxis's Alpha Centauri, which pits rival factions against one another as they colonize a new planet.

PLAYING TIPS:

1. Plan your game time. It's easy to lose track of your strategy when you break a game into many sessions.
2. Use the governors to control city-building; visit your cities to monitor land usage and improvements.
3. When an opponent is down, but not quite out, don't make peace too soon. If he's down far enough, he'll surrender—giving you his cities and the leader's vote in council meetings.

Multiplayer Games on the Cheap

Loneliness. Console gamers—even those who play side-by-side with a buddy—must feel isolated in comparison with their modem-wired, PC-based brethren, who can frag friends, family, and strangers half the globe away in heated Quake II skirmishes. But that's about to change: The 128-bit Sega Dreamcast console (\$199), which reaches our shores early next month (Japan, often ahead of the curve in consumer electronics, already has it), is the first gaming system to ship with a 56Kbps modem installed. In addition to creating massively multiplayer



DREAMCAST

role-playing titles for this totally connected console, Sega will bring "classic gamers" into the fold with a mix of Dreamcast card games and board games. In keeping with the communal aspects of this service, there will be e-mail services, online meeting places to trade tips and post scores, and space for gamers to build Web pages. Costs for Net usage and multiplayer gaming over the Dreamcast

Network were not yet determined at press time, but expect a free trial period until a pricing model is fleshed out. In any event, console lovers, your loneliness may soon be a thing of the past. —M.S.

GAMING GROUNDUP



SNOW MAZE

3-D SNOW MAZE

Withering in the summer heat? Try this snowy take on the classic maze theme. Click through Snow Maze's icy labyrinth to find your way safely to the end. The "cheat view" option raises you above the course when you suddenly get stuck in a blind spot. *Free; PC and Mac* [www.facemaking.com/3dmaze]

GAMEGAB.COM

Looking for cheat codes? Tired of the blowhards who blame video games for the impending decline of Western civilization? This chat forum lets you air your thoughts on these and other select gaming topics. Feel free to dive in with your questions, answers, and comments. *Free; PC and Mac* [www.gamegab.com]

LIFESAVERS CANDYSTAND

Kids aren't supposed to talk to strangers offering candy, but there's no reason why *you* can't. This LifeSavers Web site offers more than two dozen authentic arcade-style titles, couched in shameless self-promotion. The cavity-free lineup includes the tasteful Breath Savers Road Rally. *Free; PC and Mac* [www.candystand.com]

LARA UNCOVERED

Despite wishful rumors, there are no Lara Croft nude codes for Eidos's wildly popular Tomb Raider title. But if NC-17 gaming flips your switch, this unofficial software patch (it's not endorsed by Eidos) reveals a naked Lara. *Adults only; free* [www.game-revolution.com/download/lara.htm]
—M.S.

SONY

To: Suzanne
From: The Rickster
Subject: All 4 U!

Go out with me Friday and all this can be yours.

E-mail

No other camera lets you do more with pictures than the Sony Digital Mavica® camera. It's the only digital camera that lets you capture and store your images on a floppy disk. No messy wires. No annoying adapters. With the Sony Digital Mavica camera, you can e-mail your images anywhere in the world in an instant. Just point, click, shoot and send. It's the fastest, easiest way to share the sights and sounds of your life. The fun is up to you.

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YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

A Y-Life sampler of lively Net events.
Daily updates at www.ylive.com

Times are Eastern, unless otherwise specified.

SUNDAYS

5 P.M.

THE GREAT SHIFT RADIO PROGRAM

Medium Fred Sterling and Kiraal, a being from the seventh dimension, host this update on the imminent shift in human consciousness.

www.inward.com

NOT THE NEWS

"The stories that Rather, Brokaw, and Jennings don't have the huggers to cover."

www.talkspot.com/shows/Not_the_News



9 P.M.

BUDGET TRAVEL CHAT

How to plan fabulous vacations on shoe-string budgets.

www.village.com/chat/fullschedule/0%2c2114%2cU%2c00.html

MONDAYS

6 P.M.

WATCH WITH WANDIA

TV savant Wandia shares her inside track with tube fans.

www.eonline.com/Reviews/Tube/Wandia

TUESDAYS

7 P.M.

KOOLOUT JAZZ

Bebop, big-band, and blues sounds all figure in this spicy gumbo of jazz performances.

www.koolout.com

8 P.M.

AND JUSTICE FOR BRAWL

Chat about pro wrestling with host "Ole Hard" Derek Gordon.

static.pseudo.com/index.asp?showid=55

8:30 P.M.

PUNCHLINE PUNDITS

The hosts supply the joke or riddle; you supply the punch line.

talkcity.com/calendar/events/event238.html

WEDNESDAYS

NOON

RAKU WRITING

A real-time writing experiment, inspired by the intense raku method of firing pottery.

www.cat.nyu.edu/raku/about.html



U P & C O M I N G

FILM

What would you do if your hometown superhero disappeared? That's what the people of Champion City must decide in **MYSTERY MEN**, when they learn that Captain Amazing (Greg Kinnear) is missing. Bad guy Cassanova Frankenstein (Geoffrey Rush) is the likely culprit in this mystery-come-dy, with Ben Stiller, Janeane Garofalo, Paul Reubens, and Hank Azaria also making heroic pitches to find their beloved local icon. Visit Champion City on the Web at www.mysterymen.com. In **OUTSIDE PROVIDENCE**, class issues erupt when a blue-collar teen (Shawn Hatosy, from *The Faculty*) gets sent away to prep school by his dad (Alec Baldwin) to avoid the dicey streets of his 'hood. The site of this Farrelly brothers coming-of-age drama [\[www.miramax.com\]](http://www.miramax.com) boasts behind-the-scenes footage, plus a trailer, clips, and photos.

MUSIC

After a nine-year hiatus, Smokey Robinson is back with the Motown label, and its founder, Berry

Gordy, has personally produced "Intimate," a Robinson tribute at [\[www.motown.com\]](http://www.motown.com), anticipated for this month. You'll find a photo gallery, RealPlayer tracks, and a bio. But if that leaves you wanting even more, try [\[www.srv.net/~roxtar/robinson_smokey.html\]](http://www.srv.net/~roxtar/robinson_smokey.html). Described as a female version of Prince, Me'Shell Ndegeocello releases her third album, *Bitter*, on Madonna's own Maverick Records. Try her official site [\[www.maverickrc.com/meshell\]](http://www.maverickrc.com/meshell) to learn the proper pronunciation of her name, then score a Me'Shell screen saver and some good audio/video clips at [\[geocities.com/BourbonStreet/Delta/2833\]](http://geocities.com/BourbonStreet/Delta/2833). —J.O.C.

ART

You may never have heard of Tulsa, Oklahoma's **GILCREASE MUSEUM** before, but a little tooling around with your browser can change that. Click over to the museum's site [\[www.gilcrease.org/2tour.html\]](http://www.gilcrease.org/2tour.html) and take a QuickTime VR tour of its 19th- and 20th-century Western American art collections. Yippee ti-yie-yo to you, too.



NDEGEOCELLO

YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

P.O.V. MAGAZINE:

OFFICE ROMANCE

Scamming on your next-cube neighbor? *Achtung, baby.*
talkcity.com/calendar/events/event3487.html

9 P.M.

PSYCH CENTRAL

Q&A session on pertinent mental-health issues.

chat13.go.com/webchat3.so?cmd=cmd_doorway:Psych_Central



THURSDAYS

9 P.M.

19TH HOLE

Discuss birdies, bogies, sand traps, and the best pro golf players.

www.sportsline.com/u/chat

FRIDAYS

3 P.M.

WONKS

The jargon and fiery opinions fly in this weekly debate show on Net topics.

www.biztechtv.com

9 P.M.

OFF THE WALL

This assortment of ludicrous chats and kooky games is more pun than a barrel of monkeys.
talkcity.com/calendar/events/event1424.html

SATURDAYS

9 P.M.

SATURDAY NITE ASTRO CHAT

Catch Saturday-night star fever with host Jim Pennington. (MS Internet Explorer users only.)
communities.msn.com/astrology/chat.asp

DAILY

5 P.M. (Weekdays)

FIVE ELEMENT FENG SHUI

How to use feng shui, the Asian art of proper placement, to help improve your relationship with your environment.

www.talkspot.com/shows/5_Elements_of_Feng_Shui

6 P.M.

MILLENNIUM STAGE CONCERTS

Access a dizzying array of musical offerings in this daily show from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

www.kennedy-center.org/millennium

MYSTERY MEN: MELINDA SUE GORDON/UNIVERSAL; NDEGEOCELLO: KIMBERLY BUTLER/ET

Quokka.com™

(live digital sports coverage) 24-hour

User information
about Quokka.com
(kwok-uh dot kom)

Quokka

SIDE EFFECTS MAY INCLUDE:

Clenched butt cheeks • constant low-grade ambient fear • euphoria • the shakes • working the word "crampon" into every conversation • unemployment • hyperactive adrenal gland • fondness for really tight, stretchy fabrics • mild dyspepsia • heart palpitations • deep appreciation for rope • excitability • forgetfulness • forgetfulness • failed relationships • insomnia • hiccups • increased heart rate • increased sex appeal • shortness of breath • bulimous eruption • nervousness • forgetfulness • dizziness • ironic simultaneous hypersensitivity to and craving for eggs • increased salivation • nausea • chills • twitching • scurvy • sore joints • increased sweating • nasty paper cut • itchy skin • hair where there wasn't hair before • no hair where there once was hair • forgetfulness • halitosis • amnesia • spasms • tongue gets stuck in desk drawer • that gassy and bloated feeling • delusions of grandeur • fondness for wearing a safety harness • forgetfulness • potbelly • torn earlobe • temporary loss of bladder control • abnormal thinking • incomprehensible babbling • comprehensible babbling • anxiety • smart pants • forgetfulness • bulging eyeballs • the yucks • attention deficit disorder • sleep disorder • non-specific offensive odor • agitation • hot flashes • cat scratch fever • spring fever • weak knees • forgetfulness • hyperventilation • rug burn • Indian burn • cooties • noogies • wedgies • heebies • jeebies • heebie-jeebies • bloodshot eyes • achiness • breakiness • shakiness • cauliflower ear • hangnail • calluses • blisters • gout • the frizzies • morning breath • the munchies • foot odor • normal to oily skin • sniffling • sneezing • coughing • stuffy-head-so-you-can't-rest • fine lines and wrinkles • bags under eyes • fear of snapping a femur • wheezing • sweaty palms • hairy palms • hairy tongue • studliness • forgetfulness • spastic colon. (Please see Quokka.com billboards for complete list of side effects.)

What is Quokka.com?

Quokka.com is 24-hour live sports coverage that uses proprietary digital technologies to let you experience what the athletes experience. Combined, these technologies deliver a powerful new form of sports entertainment called Quokka Sports Immersion.™

Quokka.com live climbing expeditions and events:

Great Trango Tower—Three top climbers, including Alex Lowe, travel to Pakistan to attempt the first ascent of the Tower's Northwest Face—a mile-high, vertical rock wall. Spending 30 days on the wall itself, the team will relay live audio, photos, 3-D maps, firsthand reports and biometric data.

First Ascent—A team of professional climbers scales the unconquered peaks of the Karakoram range in China. Quokka Sports delivers continuously updated live coverage—audio direct from the mountain, digital photos, climber e-mails, weather reports and global positioning data.

CART Champ Car Racing—The fastest circuit racers in the world. Quokka Sports provides complete, immersive coverage of races throughout the season with a real-time race viewer, behind-the-scenes reporting, standings, statistics and live audio from the cockpit.

Users may also experience these archived events:

Marathon des Sables—Runners test the limits of human endurance in this 150-mile foot race across the Sahara desert.

Around Alone—Sailing's ultimate challenge and the longest race for an individual in any sport. One person, on a boat, around the world, alone.

The Whitbread—Yacht racing's most grueling competition. A 32,000-mile odyssey.

A 16-month efficacy trial involving users 18-49 years of age reports a high response of "This is freaking incredible" from our randomly selected trial participants. A smaller group responded with barely audible chirping noises. One participant simply crawled into the fetal position under the table, where he remains to this very day.

What is Quokka Sports Immersion?™

QSI is the active ingredient in Quokka.com. It is a revolutionary way to follow sports, combining live video and audio, still images, continuous 24-hour updates, e-mail diaries from the competitors, biometric data, professional commentary, real-time statistics, event maps, background information and athlete bios. Studies show Quokka Sports Immersion provides the most intense sports coverage available today. Studies of these previous studies confirm the results of two earlier studies. A 22-month study of these 12-month studies demonstrates that 14-month studies based on previous 8-month studies are basically a load of crap. All studies conclude that further studies will be necessary.

What if I become pregnant while using Quokka.com?

It is unlikely that you will get pregnant while simultaneously using Quokka.com because of the highly engaging spectator experience Quokka Sports Immersion provides. However, if pregnancy does occur, you should refrain from giving your baby the following names: Crampon, Blister, Piston, Barnacle, Gaping Wound, Hypoxia, Mafey, Tapwater, Cockpit, Sidecar, Musty Sall Bag.

What the **** do you mean, side effects?!

Users may experience severe side effects as a result of their complete immersion in the drama and excitement of the sports event. Due caution should therefore be exercised when using Quokka.com while operating the following potentially dangerous machinery: lawnmowers, single-engine aircraft, 80-story cranes, monster trucks, elaborate lever-and-pulley systems, acetylene torches, invisible death rays, visible death rays, lunar landing modules, levitating bullet trains, tanning beds, nuclear submarines, 40-ton hydraulic presses, forklifts or toaster ovens.

Who can I sue if I'm injured by Quokka.com?

Because Quokka collapses the distance between you and the sports event, you experience what the athlete experiences (see table 1). Consequently, there is a small probability (<.0001%) you will become injured as a result of your immersive experience. There is also a small probability (<.000001%) you will co-star in a sitcom about a talking goat detective. Quokka.com, Quokka Sports, its parent company or any of its subsidiaries accept no responsibility for any injuries, real, imagined or otherwise, sustained while using Quokka.com. If, however, you sustain injuries while co-starring in a sitcom about a talking goat detective, feel free to sue anyone you want to.

Table 1. The Incidence of Unsolicited Adverse Events (Including Severe Events) Reported by Quokka Athletes in a Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial.

Adverse Events	Quokka.com	Placebo (sugar pill)
Avalanche	23%	0%
Gale-force winds	62%	0%
Uncontrollable sobbing	44%	9%
Teeth fall out of head	1%	83%
Hit wall at 200 mph	17%	0%
Laceration	99%	6%
Fall into crevasse	12%	0%
Spontaneous decapitation	0%	2%
40-ft. waves	39%	0%
Struck by runaway grand piano	0%	31%

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Quokka Sports® San Francisco, CA USA

 **Quokkasports®**

"A digital dose of sports."™

Quokka
.com

LISTS & STATS

TOP CHATS

The month's best-attended get-togethers at America Online.

KEYWORD: LIVE

- 1 Nickelodeon's *Kids' Choice Awards* [5/1]
- 2 AOL MarketTalk, financial discussion [5/25]
- 3 ▼ B*Witched, pop group [5/6]



JAY BLANKENBERG/RETNA

- 4 Rosie Interactive Mondays [5/24]
- 5 WWF's Triple H, fan chat [5/19]
- 6 Cher [5/12]
- 7 Cheryl Ladd [5/4]
- 8 Melissa Townsend, psychic chat [5/11]
- 9 Mourn *Melrose Place* Finale, fan chat [5/24]
- 10 *The Regal Women's Show with Joan and Melissa Rivers* [5/25]

Rankings reflect May chat attendance.

TOP QUESTIONS

The queries that surfers most frequently ask Jeeves, the virtual butler, at the Ask Jeeves search site.

WWW.ASKJEEVES.COM

- 1 Where can I see flower pictures?
- 2 What does the Net term "cookie" mean?
- 3 Where can I find *Star Wars* information?
- 4 Where can I find a fun baby-name chooser?
- 5 Where can I find travel information for France?
- 6 What is the latest Kosovo news?
- 7 Where can I hear sounds of the band Backstreet Boys?
- 8 Where can I find career information on becoming a nurse?
- 9 Who invented the PC?
- 10 Where can I find information about the human skeletal system?

Rankings reflect May data.

TOP TICKET SALES

The top-selling events at Ticketmaster Online.

WWW.TICKETMASTER.COM

- 1 Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band tour
- 2 Alanis Morissette/Tori Amos tour
- 3 Phish tour
- 4 Cher tour
- 5 Lilith Fair tour
- 6 Elton John tour
- 7 Neil Diamond tour
- 8 Barenaked Ladies tour
- 9 Oave Matthews Band tour
- 10 New York Yankees

Rankings reflect May data and multiple dates for each tour or event.

T H E S I T E S

WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among Web surfers.

WHERE'S THE BUZZ?

The most-visited news/info/entertainment sites.

Media Metrix

SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS (IN MILLIONS)	SITE	UNIQUE VISITORS (IN MILLIONS)
1 Yahoo!	30.8	1 ZDNet	6.9
2 AOL.com	29.1	2 MSNBC.com	6.0
3 MSN.com	22.0	3 Pathfinder	5.5
4 GO Network	19.4	4 MiningCo.com/About.com	5.4
5 GeoCities	19.1	5 CNN.com	5.1
6 Netscape	18.6	6 The Weather Channel	5.0
7 Microsoft	15.8	7 Disney Online	4.5
8 Excite	15.3	8 ESPN.com	4.1
9 Lycos	14.4	9 iVillage	4.1
10 Angelfire	11.9	10 Sony Online	3.9
11 Tripod	11.6	11 Warner Bros. Online	3.5
12 Hotmail	11.6	12 CNET	3.5
13 Blue Mountain Arts	11.5	13 DigitalCity	3.4
14 AltaVista	9.5	14 CBS SportsLine	3.4
15 Amazon.com	9.4	15 Broadcast.com	3.3

Media Metrix (www.mediametrix.com) measures the preferences of 40,000 Net surfers. "Visitors" represents the actual number of unique users who visited the site once during the given month. Rankings reflect April data. Apparent ties are the result of rounding.

BOOKS

WWW.AMAZON.COM

The top-selling hardcover fiction titles at Amazon.com.

- 1 *White Oleander: A Novel*, Fitch
- 2 *Cryptonomicon*, Stephenson
- 3 *Star Wars Episode 1—The Phantom Menace*, Brooks
- 4 *The Testament*, Grisham
- 5 *Turn of the Century*, Andersen
- 6 *We'll Meet Again*, Higgins Clark
- 7 *The Girl Who Loved Tom*, Gordon, King
- 8 *A New Song (The Mitford Years)*, Karon
- 9 *Certain Prey*, Sanford
- 10 *East of the Mountains*, Guterson

List represents the week ending 6/2/99.



MUSIC

RSRADIO.COM

The most-requested pop singles on the Rolling Stone Radio network.

- 1 "Everybody Hurts," R.E.M.
- 2 "What It's Like," Everlast
- 3 "...Baby One More Time," Britney Spears
- 4 "All 'Bout the Money," Meja
- 5 "Special," Garbage
- 6 "I Want It That Way," Backstreet Boys
- 7 "Livin' La Vida Loca," Ricky Martin
- 8 "I Will Remember You," Sarah McLachlan
- 9 "(God Must Have Spent) A Little More Time on You," 'N Sync
- 10 "Down So Long," Jewel

Rankings reflect listeners' voting throughout May.



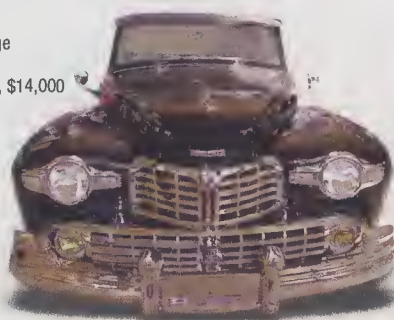
TOP AUCTION ITEMS

The items generating the highest bids at eBay.

WWW.EBAY.COM

- 1 1947 Lincoln Continental Convertible V12, \$55,000 ▼
- 2 "Ultimate Elvis in Concert Videos" (taped from CBS television), \$21,100
- 3 Cisco 7507 Router, \$19,085
- 4 1986 Fleer Michael Jordan rookie card, \$15,000
- 5 1997 Boston Whaler Outrage Center Console, \$14,300
- 6 1949 Bentley MK VI Saloon, \$14,000
- 7 1985 Porsche Speedster Replicar, \$13,600
- 8 Tiffany Rolex President with diamonds, \$12,600
- 9 1978 Mercedes-Benz 450SL, \$11,000
- 10 2.5 acres in Golden Valley, Arizona, \$10,000

Rankings reflect May sales.



LISTS & STATS

TOP RECIPIES

The month's most popular recipe requests at StarChefs.

WWW.STARCHEFS.COM

- 1 Halibut Steaks with Mixed Vegetables, Jean-Georges Vongerichten
- 2 Spaghetti with Calamari Meatballs, Reed Heaton
- 3 One Sixtyblue Salmon, Patrick Robertson
- 4 Barbecued Baby Back Ribs (or Chicken), Mark F. Sohn
- 5 Grilled Swordfish with Artichokes, Tomatoes, and Olives, Chris Schlesinger & John Willoughby
- 6 The Great American Hamburger, Steven Raichlen
- 7 Grilled Salmon, Wayne Nish
- 8 Grilled Smoke Cured Rib Eye Steak, Janos Wilder
- 9 Oven Roasted Strawberries Fresh Strawberry Sorbet, Rozanne Gold
- 10 Baked Apples with Cranberries, Daniel Boulud

Rankings reflect May requests.

net poll

THE TRUTH IS ONLINE

Q: What was the worst idea of the 20th century?

- Communism 42%
- New Coke 29%
- Supply-side economics ... 12%
- Fast food 10%
- Car pool lanes 6%

Rankings reflect responses of 9,523 voters at CNN.com on June 11, 1999.

THE WEB'S CELEBS

The most-downloaded celebrities currently on the nation's radar.

AOL KEYWORD: EXTRA

- 1 ▼ Natalie Portman (*Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace*)



MITCHELL DEBBEL/COPIES

- 2 Catherine Zeta-Jones (*Entrapment*)
- 3 Julia Roberts (*Notting Hill*)
- 4 Reese Witherspoon (*Election*)
- 5 Drew Barrymore (*Never Been Kissed*)
- 6 Callista Flockhart (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*)
- 7 Ewan McGregor (*Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace*)
- 8 Michelle Pfeiffer (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*)
- 9 Brendan Fraser (*The Mummy*)
- 10 Sean Connery (*Entrapment*)

Rankings reflect May search queries.

Shop for DVDs in your BVDs.

Find over 3,500 titles at Reel.com. All at the guaranteed lowest on-line prices.

In brief, there's no better place to buy DVDs than Reel.com.

Not only do we have every DVD title available, we guarantee the lowest on-line prices. We'll even match any on-line retailer.

We've also got great prices on over 100,000 titles on VHS.

So if you're into movies, just go straight to Reel.com.

You'll love our selection. Not to mention our dress code.



Get hot DVD titles.
Now 50% off.

www.Reel.com
The best place to buy movies.™



AOL keyword Reel.

©1999 Reel, Inc. Offer expires August 31, 1999.

YAHOO YENTA

WRITE YENTA AT CLICK@ZD.COM



Dear Yenta,
To say I've screwed up is an understatement. It all started

when I decided to auction off my husband's prized collection of Roman foot-soldier figurines on eBay while he was at a Battle of Gettysburg reenactment. To make matters worse, I sent out the little chunks of rust before the bidder's check cleared—and it bounced. In an effort to recoup my losses quickly (so I could find more foot soldiers and put the past behind me), I invested in a stock recommended by a free e-mail newsletter. It turned out to be a hoax. So, Yenta, is the Net a nasty place after all? —Defeated in De Kalb

Dear Defeated,
Aunt Malvina used to say, "If it smells like pickles everywhere you go, think about what you had for lunch." The Net a nasty place? When was the last time you looked at your own home, my conniving correspondent? Like any kosher deli, a Web site is only as good—or bad—as the people who patronize it. Do I make myself clear? Now go log on and find a few dozen foot soldiers, before your husband comes home from the front.

search results

FULL NELSON

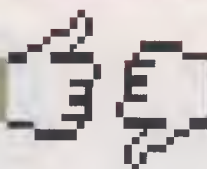
Nelson Mandela 17,904
Willie Nelson 1,717
Major Tony Nelson 12
Charles Nelson Reilly 740



MICHAEL COHEN ARCHIVE

attitude

y i p p e e !



ya-hooey!

PORN FLAKES

When a U.S. district judge ordered a "freeze" recently on www.painwebber.com (notice that missing dot), porno purveyors were left with one less venue. With any luck, this move will stop deceitful sleaze marketers from parking their unsolicited wares on other "mistyped" Web addresses.

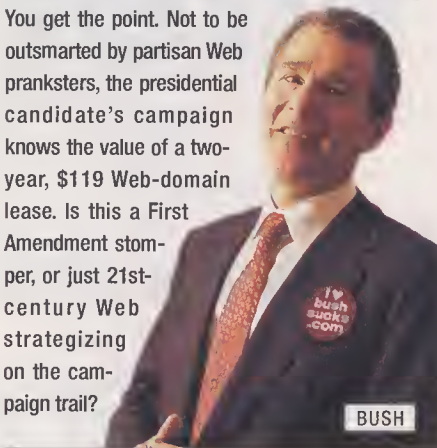
IT'S A WWWHALE OF AN IDEA

During Greenpeace's petition drive six years ago for the creation of a whale sanctuary in Antarctica, it pulled in 2 million signatures. This year, the 28-year-old environmental group petitioned the International Whaling Commission, and had the smarts to solicit Web surfers' support and virtual "John Hancocks" as well [www.greenpeaceusa.org/save/alerts/whalepetition.htm]. Good thinking.

YOU DECIDE

THE \$119 SOLUTION

Who owns Bushsucks.com? Gov. George W. Bush. And what about Bushsucks.net? Well, he owns that, too. How about Bushsucks.org? You get the point. Not to be outsmarted by partisan Web pranksters, the presidential candidate's campaign knows the value of a two-year, \$119 Web-domain lease. Is this a First Amendment stomper, or just 21st-century Web strategizing on the campaign trail?



THERE WERE THESE NUNS...

Sparks flew when an employee of the Federal Communications Commission accidentally sent an off-color joke to 6,000 people on a commission mailing list. You'd think people would get a Hotmail account, already.

POP-UPS BE GONE

We *Yahooey*-ed when they debuted, and we still hate them now. If there's a more noxious means of Net advertising, we've yet to see it.

BLUBBERING MESS

While Greenpeace worked the Net in a positive way to save whales, some equally Net-savvy (though considerably more militant) whale lovers took the low road. Upset over the ritual slaughter of a whale by the Makah Native American nation, hackers created a spoof of the tribe's Web site, which included epithets and images of dripping blood. Dirty pool, guys.

SITE GAG

BY MICK STEVENS



"HOW DID THE INTERNET GET MY BRA SIZE?"

MICK STEVENS © 1998. FROM THE CARTOON BANK. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. BUSH: DANNY TURNER

If your bank
could start over, this is
what it would be.



In the 60 seconds it takes to find a parking spot at your old bank, we guarantee an answer on your loan application. And that's just for starters. For smarter investments, a better mortgage, more affordable insurance—even speedier ways to pay bills—leave your car in the garage. Your new bank's in the den.



www.WingspanBank.com ©1999. Bank products by FCC National Bank. Member FDIC. Investments by Wingspan Investment Services, Inc. Registered broker-dealer. Member NASD/SIPC.

INVESTMENTS NOT FDIC INSURED. MAY LOSE VALUE. NO BANK GUARANTEE.

It's a PC.
It's a digital camera.
It's a Sony.



Pull out your C1
PictureBook



Open it up



Point the Camera



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SONY

VAIO

Introducing the new Sony VAIO C1 PictureBook™ Computer.

Take an innovative digital camera. Then build a small, yet powerful notebook around it. The result? Instant transfer of digital video and stills to your desktop. The VAIO C1 PictureBook computer just as easily lets you use Sony's preloaded software to add special effects—like creating 360° panoramas. Plus, attach your video clips and stills to your e-mail or web site,** as well as to word documents using Smart Write and Smart Publisher.

The new PictureBook is not much bigger than a paperback book. Yet it comes fully equipped with Microsoft® Windows® 98, a powerful Intel® Pentium® processor 266 MHz, a huge 4.3 GB hard drive, 64 MB SDRAM and a whole lot more. To order, call now or visit our web site.

Sony VAIO DirectSM

BUY DIRECT

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www.sony.com/direct-bil

\$100 Rebate with purchase of VAIO C1 PictureBook Computer. (Offer expires 9/30/99)

\$200 Rebate with purchase of VAIO C1 PictureBook Computer and CD-ROM Drive (PCGA-CD51). (Offer expires 9/30/99)



Press the Capture Button



E-mail the clip to everyone**

Features:

- Light weight (2.5 lbs.), and slim (1.5" thin)
- Actual Size 9.45"W x 1.45"H x 5.51"D
- Built-in 1/6" CCD camera (Motion Eye™)
- Mobile Intel Pentium processor with MMX™ Technology 266 MHz
- 64 MB SDRAM (expandable to 128 MB)
- 4.3 GB fixed hard drive
- Microsoft Windows 98
- Integrated V.90 modem
- Adobe PhotoDeluxe® Business Edition
- Sony original multimedia software including:
 - Smart Capture, Smart Write and Smart Publisher
 - PictureGear™ with panorama
- 8.9" XGA Width TFT LCD Display (1024 x 480)
- 17mm pitch/2mm stroke keyboard
- i.LINK® (IEEE-1394) interface for digital video still image capture
- Magnesium-alloy LCD casing
- USB port
- Bundled Accessories:
 - AC Adapter
 - Lithium-Ion Battery (standard)
 - External USB floppy disk drive

C1 PictureBook

\$2,199.99

(with \$100 rebate)

as low as \$39.70 a month*

Accessories (optional):

- External 14X (max.) CD-ROM Drive PCGA-CD51: \$299.99
- AC Adapter PCGA-AC51: \$99.99
- C1 Carrying Case PCGA-CC1A: \$149.99
- Double-capacity Lithium-Ion Battery PCGA-BP12: \$299.99
- Battery Charger PCGA-BC1: \$199.99
- Standard Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Battery PCGA-BP11: \$149.99

Prices and promotions do not include applicable sales tax or shipping and handling and are subject to change without Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Sony Computer Loan terms: No money down, 15.17% ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (APR) and 12.35% variable The Wall Street Journal on the 1st business day of each month. Changes to rate take effect on the 5th business day Note: Images on screens are simulated.

SN-899-BIL



Simple Answers for Smart People

HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME



GARY HOVAND

SEARCH ALERT by Danny Sullivan

Submission Impossible?

Is it easy to submit your Web page to a search service? Yes, but getting it listed is another story altogether. It can take weeks, even months, for directories like **Yahoo!** [www.yahoo.com] and **LookSmart** [www.looksmart.com] to accept and categorize a site submission.

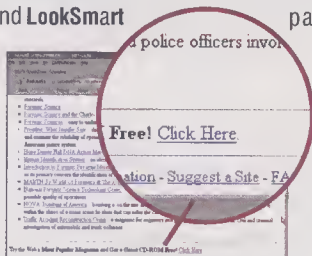
That's why I recommend that users submit home pages to the search engines first. Of the search services, **AltaVista** [www.altavista.com] and **Infoseek** [www.infoseek.com] are by far the quickest to index site submissions (usually within days).

It may take more of an effort, but it's worthwhile (especially for

e-businesses) to get listed at the search directories, too. But where are the "submit" links? They're placed, inconspicuously, at the top or bottom of subcategory pages on Yahoo! and LookSmart. Tricky, eh?

Of course, you can always subscribe to **SubmitIt!** [www.submitit.com] and **Register-It!** [www.registerit.com]; these fee-based services submit your site to as many as 400 search engines and directories.

*Danny Sullivan runs the respected **Search Engine Watch** [www.searchenginewatch.com].*



Missing link: To submit a site to the Yahoo! directory, scroll down.

DEAR SURF GURU

Get Paged Online; Suppress StartUp Programs

I have only one phone line. Is there a way to receive incoming calls while I'm on the Net?

Take a look at **Pagoo** [www.pagoo.com]. This nifty service lets friends, family, or whomever send audio messages to your PC desktop. Here's how it works: Your phone line is busy. The caller urgently needs to reach you, so he or she dials the toll-free Pagoo Phone Center (800-PAGOO-44), punches in your Pagoo ID number (e.g., your 10-digit phone number), and leaves a voice message.

Seconds later, the message is sent to your Pagoo Desktop Agent—a virtual pager/answering machine of sorts that resides on your desktop. The program pops up on your computer screen.

You hit Play, and the Pagoo player delivers the voice mail. That's it. Currently, Pagoo is available for Windows users only. The service is free to try for one month and costs \$3.95 per month (for a one-year subscription) or \$4.95 per month (for a six-month subscription) thereafter.



I downloaded a program from the Net, and then installed it. Now it keeps popping up on my screen every time I boot up my PC. How do I stop this from happening?

Double-click on your computer's "C:" drive (you can usually reach it by clicking on the desktop icon labeled My Computer). Double-click on the "Windows" folder, and then on the "Start Menu" folder. Double-click on the "Programs" folder, and then on the "Startup" folder. Now, single-click on the appropriate "Startup" shortcut file, and hit Delete. And if that doesn't work, go to the **ZDNet Software Library** [www.hotfiles.com] and download **PC Magazine's Startup Cop**. This utility examines your computer's hard drive and identifies files that are causing programs to launch at start-up. Startup Cop will let you manage these files; you can then enable, disable, or totally eradicate them.



© Philip Morris Inc. 1999
4 mg "tar," 0.4 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette
Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.**

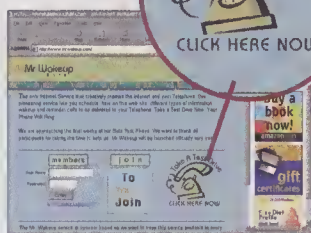
Discover the rewards of thinking light.



NEAT NET TRICKS by Jack Teems

Split Decision

In this day and age, 1.44MB floppies are woefully inadequate for storing and transporting large files. A floppy disk can't even hold a single MP3 tune! Thankfully, there's a solution for the Zip drive-less: The **Split Files Shell Extension** [www.essi.fr/~berger/Windows/split.html]. This great piece of free-ware lets PC users break files into two or more data chunks, which can be copied onto multiple floppies. And, of course, Split Files also lets users reunite these chunks into a single file.



Go online and schedule a wake-up call for any number in the U.S.

[www.mrwakeup.com], a free Web-based service, visitors can schedule a wake-up call for any phone number in the U.S. Users can customize messages to include local time, date, and weather information, as well as daily headlines, financial news, daily affirmations, and horoscopes. People can even record messages in their own voice. The catch: All wake-up calls begin with a five-second advertisement.

QWERTY Quiz

Put your computer typing skills to the test at the **TypingMaster** [www.typingtest.com] Web site. The service's interactive, Java-based typing exam estimates your speed and accuracy. To take the test, you need to run Netscape Navigator 4.06 or later; Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or later; or other Java 1.1-capable browser.

Call of the Web

Is your bedroom alarm clock on the blink? At **Mr. Wakeup**

Jack Teems is keeper of the **Neat Net Tricks** Web site [www.neatnettricks.com].



NET REFRESHER

E-mail Compactors

So you save every last e-mail message that lands in your in-box, huh? Well, guess what? All of those messages, chain letters, electronic petitions, and "You know you're a red-neck when..." joke lists take up room on your hard disk. If you want to create extra space on your computer, compress your e-mail folders.

Netscape Messenger 4.x Click the "File" menu and select "Compress Folders." **Navigator 4.5x** users must select "Compact Folders."

Netscape Mail 3.x Click the "File" menu and select "Compress Folder."

Microsoft Outlook Express 4.x Click on either your Inbox or Outbox. Click the File menu and select "Folder." Then select "Compact All Folders."

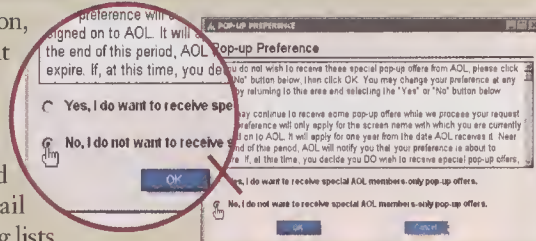
Microsoft Internet Mail 3.x Click the "File" menu and select "Folder." Then select "Compact" and "All Folders."

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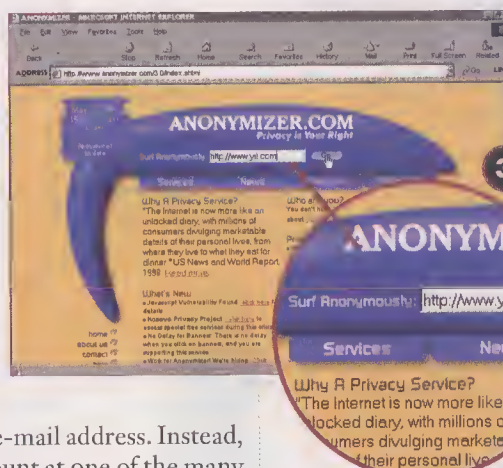
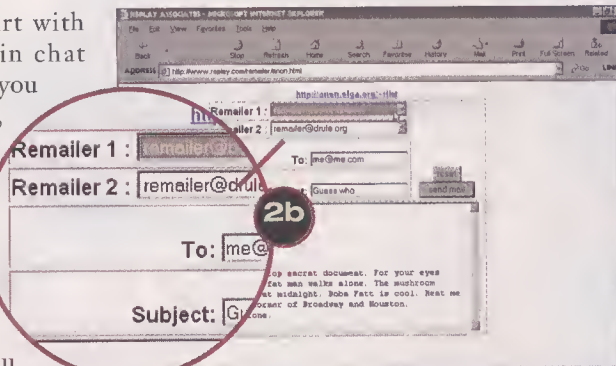
The more time you spend online, the more information other users can gather about you. If you're concerned about your privacy surfing the Web anonymously. Here's how.

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Stop giving out your e-mail address. Instead, sign up for a free account at one of the many Web-based e-mail services, and hand out this address when visiting sites, newsgroups, and chat rooms. Here are a few sites that offer free e-mail: **ZDNet Mail** [www.zdnetmail.com], **Yahoo! Mail** [mail.yahoo.com], **Hotmail** [www.hotmail.com], **Net@address** [www.netaddress.com], and **Bigfoot** [www.bigfoot.com].

2 SEND ANONYMOUS MESSAGES

A. If you'd like to send e-mail messages without letting the recipient know who you are, use an anonymous remailer. These services strip away any identifying material from your missives. To get started, head to [anon.isp.ee]*—one of the Web's best remailers—and register for a free account. To send an anonymous e-mail, just address a message*



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remailers are even simpler to use. Give **Replay Associates, L.L.P.** [www.replay.com/remailer/anon.html] a whirl. Enter a recipient address in the site's "To:" field, then type a message in the larger message field. Select a remailer from the "Remailer 1" or "Remailer 2" pull-down menus and hit Send. Note: This Web-based remailer does not allow recipients to reply to your messages.

3 SURF IN SECRET

Anonymizer.com [www.anonymizer.com] prevents nosy Web sites from unmasking your true identity. To surf incognito, just type a Web address in the site's "Surf Anonymously" field and click Go.

—Troy Brophy



shopper SMART BUYS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

PICKS OF THE MONTH

BY KAREN L. MILLER



Fitting Shirtmaker

1 You don't have to cross the pond anymore to get a Harvie & Hudson custom shirt (starting at about \$100 U.S.). E-mail this respected London shop your exact dimensions, or visit its artisans when they come stateside biannually. All styles are hand-cut, available in your choice of cuff styles, and adorned with mother-of-pearl buttons. You can even specify the shirttail length—now *that's* service.

Harvie & Hudson
www.harvieandhudson.com

Don't Eat the Bath Oil

4 People who like their orange juice with the pulp still in it will bond immediately with the Doctor Hoy's skin-care line, which includes such items as Sliced Apples Massage & Bath Oil (\$35 for 18 ounces). The good doctor uses natural coloring and ingredients whenever possible, and he doesn't test on animals.

Doctor Hoy's
www.doctorhoy.com

Bumper Pumper

2 Pump up the traffic to your home page with chrome-clad URL Plates (\$29.95). This bumper sticker for the e-commerce age gives fellow motorists something to ponder at red lights besides their lipstick and Howard Stern's latest diatribe.

PrimeLinx
www.primelinx.com



No-Sweat Tanning

3 No matter how "glam" a suntan looks, there's nothing attractive about the sun's dangers. The harmless TanTowel (\$24 for 15 towelettes) lets you hang under the umbrella while still gaining that bronze luster—and it smells good, too. Adhere to its daily regimen and you'll look tan, rested, and ready in days. Go easy, though, lest you take on a George Hamilton-esque complexion.

TanTowel
www.tantowel.com

SHOPPER'S LITTLE HELPERS

Here's a twist: an online site that promotes *off-line* shopping. **SalesCircular** [www.salescircular.com] compiles and compares, on a regular basis, print-advertised sales at such big chain stores as Office Depot and Circuit City. It might not rid the world of those annoying newspaper supplements, but what a great idea nonetheless....Why waste time standing in line at the post office when you can buy postage stamps *online* instead? The U.S. Postal Service's **StampsOnline** [www.stampsonline.com] stocks both self-adhesive and "classic" lickable 33-cent stamps, in either 20-stamp books or 100-count coils. It's where you'll also find commemorative issues, such as the Alfred Hitchcock and Classic American Aircraft series.

FOUND AT AUCTION

An avid Bela Lugosi fan sucked up the movie star's custom-molded face mask recently at **Amazon.com Auctions** [auctions.amazon.com]. This circa-1930s likeness sold for \$127.50 (bidding started at \$50). Thirteen (how appropriate) bidders vied for this eerie impression.



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Garçon, s'il Vous Plaît!

5 If you're reluctant to serve hors d'oeuvres on tacky paper plates, but even more unwilling to do a stack of dishes later, let contemporary French artist Guy Buffet's Le Garçon paper-plate-and-napkin combo (\$15.95 as shown here) replace your stoneware and cloth napkins. What better resting place for your bacon-wrapped scallops and baked-Brie creations?

All Things French
www.allthingsfrench.com

Czech Mates

6 Invite Bublinka, Palace, and Praha to your next cocktail party. No, they're not supermodels, but rather a series of hand-etched, made-to-order martini glasses (\$60 each) from the Czech Republic. Their bold designs make each cool sip even more intoxicating.

DryMartini.com
www.drymartini.com



Double-Barreled Party

7 Sometimes you need a good whiskey with which to enjoy your cigar, and vice versa. The Alfred Dunhill Cigar/Flask Case (\$120), crafted in pewter to Dunhill's exacting standards, features dual chambers: one for your cigar and the other for your 1½-ounce chaser of choice. It's pure decadence—in moderation.

Alexander Stephens & Co.
www.alexanderstephens.com



Rubber Soul

8 The Inflate orange rubber backpack (\$85) doesn't really need to be filled with air—Inflate is just the name of the trendy London shop from which it hails. Keeping with the rubber theme, it's backed with tire treads to help prevent your goods from slipping away.

Netsetgoods.com
www.netsetgoods.com

ASK THE MAVEN

Q. While shopping at the site of a well-known book retailer, I found out that I couldn't pay for my purchases with one of its own paper gift certificates. Does this make any sense at all?

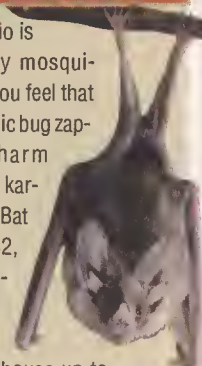
A. State sales-tax laws are to blame. Paper gift certificates purchased at a physical store can be used only at such places; online certificates are valid for online purchases only. So, for example, a Barnes & Noble gift certificate purchased in Indiana could be used at any of the chain's outlets in that state, but not online—even if the surfer lives in Indianapolis. Many online businesses with off-line shops find themselves facing the same redemption limitations.


I CAN BUY WHAT ON THE NET?

If your patio is plagued by mosquitoes, but you feel that an electronic bug zapper will harm your good karma, try the Bat Chalet (\$42, bats not included). This ample

lodge can house up to 20 winged, bug-munching critters such as the gray bat (one of 36 voracious bat types that can down 3,000 bugs per evening). Citronella can't hold a candle to that.

Garden.com
www.garden.com





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L-3 GO WARS
DROID DEVELOPER KIT

LEGO lovers, this *is* the *Star Wars* droid you're looking for. Though it can't play or record holographic messages, the R2-D2 unit can beep, chirp, and carry out seven preprogrammed functions. The brainy bot ships as part of LEGO's 600-piece Droid Developer Kit, and navigates your dwelling's terrain with the help of a built-in microcomputer, motor, and light sensor. Ambitious builders can program new behaviors for the droid, but only after supplementing its microcomputer with the Robotics Invention System (\$200, sold separately).

PIXEL FRAME
LUKIS JPEG IMAGE VIEWER

There's nothing wrong with the family portrait displayed on your desk. It's a great shot of the gang enjoying scrimshaw at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. Then again, the shot is 10 years old (the pre-Propecia days) and the entire family is horribly ashamed of it. Time for a new pic? Nah. Digitize it and include it in a rotation of more-current photos on the JPEG Image Viewer. This 4-by-4-inch digital picture frame can display JPEG-formatted photos, even those downloaded from the Net, as a slide-show presentation.

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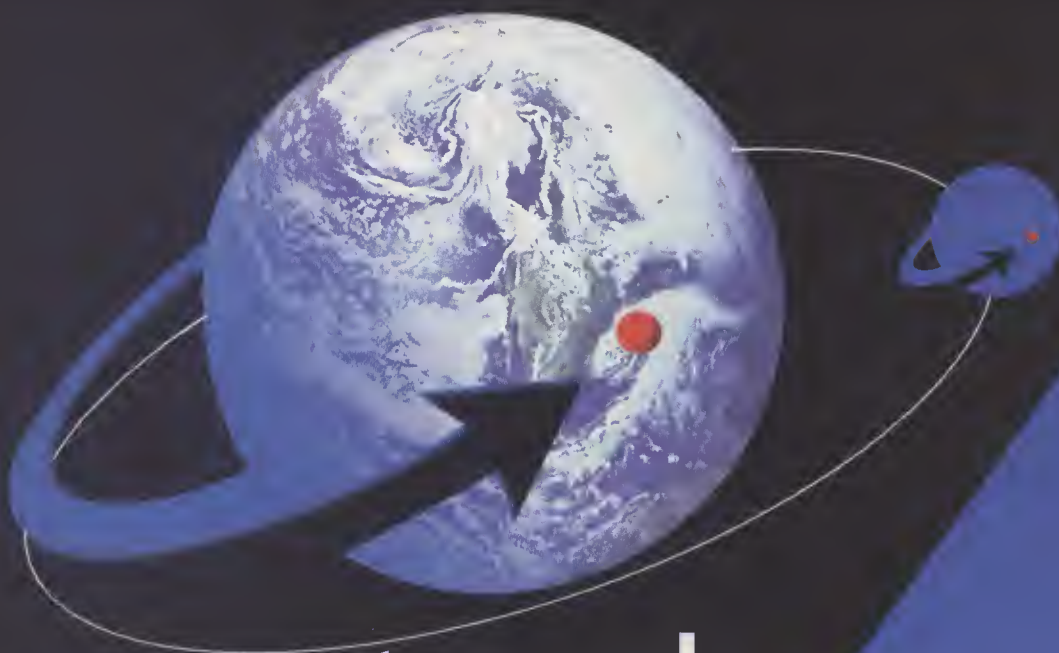
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Movies on Demand – Net Style

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN VIDEOS ARE AS AVAILABLE AS MP3 MUSIC?

So there I was, sitting next to Larry Smarr, the director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, when he mentioned that next year's Sony PlayStation II will be able to create virtual fantasy in real time, with nearly the resolution of a movie like *Tōy Story*. "Eighth-graders can become movie directors on their own desktops," he said. "We're talking 5 million instructions per second."

We were on a panel at (*abem*) Roger Ebert's Overlooked Film Festival, which was held last spring at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. What is ahead, I learned, is the delivery in real time of video so

Whenever we're promised a breakthrough in five years, you can be pretty sure that college students are already enjoying it right now. When I proudly told Smarr that I was upgrading from ISDN to DSL, he looking at me pityingly and told me that the dorms at Illinois all have at least T1 access. And then I came across an Associated Press story suggesting that lots of students have already put free campus high-speed lines to work providing pirated movies on demand.

What they're doing is distributing illegal copies of new movies via the Internet. They would take forever to download on a 56Kbps modem, but not on a high-speed connection, where a film can be downloaded in as little as 20 minutes. AP reporter Martha Mendoza was proudly shown *Cruel Intentions* and *The Matrix* on dorm-room computer screens. As she observed, however, *The Matrix* "looked somewhat dark and shady, and the musical soundtrack was missing." This might indicate that someone pirated it from a rough cut made before the score was added, or videotaped it badly off the screen in a movie theater.

Some projectionists have been caught taping movies through the windows of their booths, the AP story went on to say; in that case, the mike would pick up only projector noise. A clever projectionist could, however, tap into the digital sound system or hang a mike outside the booth window. (Don't say you read this here.)


Of course, Hollywood intends to supply movies on demand on a payment basis, but is facing the same problem that MP3 currently causes for the music industry: Once the film is out there in digital form, free copies go

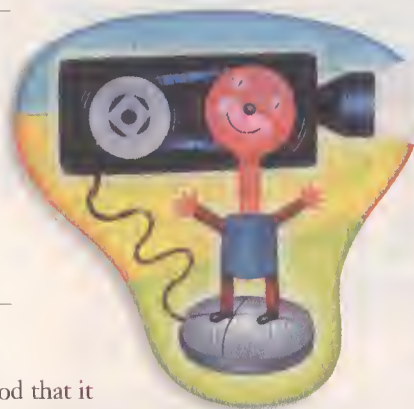
whizzing around the world.

I think that means Hollywood is being foolish in its headlong rush toward digital. Lucas says he plans to make the next *Star Wars* movie on a digital platform; no actual film will be involved at any stage.

Studios dream of saving money by delivering digital movies to theaters by satellite, instead of shipping heavy cans of film around the country. But it's harder to steal heavy cans of film than digital streams—and you need equipment to make digital copies, and then where's your profit, if your pirated copy quickly becomes freeware? The first movie beamed down from satellite will be a target for every hacker in the country, and once the encryption is broken...well, as they say, information wants to be free.

My notion is that Hollywood's best hope is a dramatically improved film projection system, which will make the theater experience visibly better than any form of video projection. Consider, for example, the **MaxiVision** system [www.maxivisioncinema.com], patented by Oscar-nominated film editor Dean Goodhill. It retrofits existing projectors to show film at 48 frames per second, which is twice the current speed. Cinematographers who have seen the MaxiVision picture tell me it took their breath away. Digital won't catch up with that quality in five years—or maybe ever. MaxiVision costs a pittance compared with the estimated \$70,000 per theater for digital projection.

In the meantime, Larry Smarr said his guys are working on a delivery system that matches the information-processing speed of the human brain. My notes say 60 trillion instructions per second. Surely that can't be right. 



good that it can be projected onto a big screen, and look and sound great. In other words, movies on demand. Two weeks later, I mentioned the PlayStation breakthrough to George Lucas, who grinned and said that things were moving so fast that next year's kids will have more speed than last year's *Star Wars* animators.

I have my own version of movies on demand, which involves ordering DVDs on the Web and paying extra for overnight delivery. But nationwide high-speed Net access for pay-for-view is about five years away, I was told.



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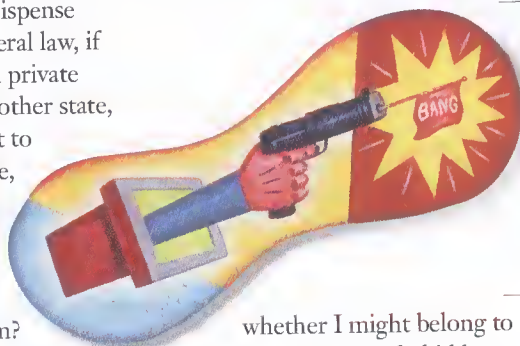
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What does my little exercise prove? That Schumer and other Net alarmists are probably firing at the wrong target. Yes, you *can* get a gun online, but it ain't easy. Before we go blasting away at the Internet, we might want to take our finger off the trigger and think a bit harder about where our troubles really do come from: our own backyards.

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Bullet Points

JUST HOW EASY IS IT TO BUY FIREARMS ONLINE?

A few weeks before the high-school shootings in Littleton, Colorado, Senator Charles Schumer (D-New York) and a colleague in the House introduced a bill to regulate the sale of firearms over the Net. "There are two glaring loopholes that allow kids and criminals to get guns—and those are gun shows and the Internet," he said. "If you are 14 years old and you want to buy a gun directly through the Internet, right now, no one is going to know your age." If passed, Schumer's bill, known as the Internet Gun Trafficking Act of 1999, would require that every Web site dedicated to gun sales be run by a federally licensed firearms dealer.

But just how big a loophole is the Net, really? How quickly could, say, a kid with a few bucks buy guns online? Could he just skip the waiting periods and background checks? Some news reports claim it's as easy to buy a gun online as it is to order a book from Amazon.com.

In search of an answer, I hit the Net for a week straight trying to get a gun. This is what I discovered.

Finding guns online was about as hard as finding PAC money in Washington. In less than 10 seconds, a Web search hit the bull's-eye on hundreds of sites, offering thousands of firearms, from pistols to M-16s.

I focused on six areas where anyone could find available guns quickly and with little Net experience: online gun stores, gun auctions, gun classifieds, general classifieds, foreign sites, and newsgroups (some of these overlap).

The online gun stores and gun auction sites were responsibly tough, applying an honor system (there's no one to regulate them, remember) of

strict rules to anyone selling guns on their services. One typical site, which billed itself as a place where "law-abiding sellers and buyers of firearms ... can get together... in an auction house setting," compels you to agree as part of the registration process that "under no circumstances shall transfers of firearms be conducted without the use of a valid FFL holder."

This is a key point. *FFL* stands for "federal firearms license," and essentially refers to gun-store owners and others legally qualified to dispense weapons. According to federal law, if you're buying a gun from a private individual, or a store, in another state, the seller has to send it first to an FFL holder in your state, who will run a check on you before you're allowed to pick up the item.

Did the sellers I tested live up to this honor system? Yes. The stores I tried and the individuals I contacted never wavered from compliance with the law.

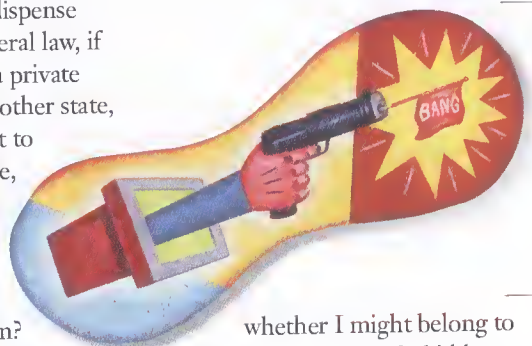
Indeed, when I attempted to find a shortcut, I was thwarted at every turn. A foreign site refused to ship without an import license. I e-mailed 50 individuals who were hawking guns through newsgroups, explaining in my most responsible-citizen prose how I needed their particular gun pronto for my son-in-law's birthday. Not one responded.

Even the gun-oriented classified ads on the sites I visited failed to turn up anybody willing to ship a gun straight to me. That's the good news.

The bad news, though, is that there are other loopholes big enough to push a machine gun through. If you sell a gun, or buy one from a private

seller, in your own state, you don't necessarily have to go through an FFL middleman—or anyone else, for that matter. It can usually go straight to you, no questions asked.

Checking an online local classified-ad service in my state (Alabama), I found a handy list of more than 40 guns for sale by private owners. I called five sellers, and all of them were eager to unload their hardware, even though they had no way (nor any legal obligation) to find out



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The Picture's in the E-mail

PLUS: WHAT'S A BARGAIN, AND WHAT'S 'FREE'?

1) ONLINE DEVELOPMENTS

THE PROMISE: Process your photos the ultra-convenient way, online.

THE REALITY: It costs more and takes longer—but may be worth it.

How much time do you spend developing photos? According to the Photo Marketing Association International, the average American family shoots 40 rolls of film per year. Once you drop off exposed film...pick up the prints...order reprints...pick up reprints...you could make up to 160 trips. Spend five minutes each time and you've lost 13.3 hours a year.

Consider the wired alternative. **Kodak** [kodak75.photonet.com], **PhotoNet Online** [www.photonet.com], and **Seattle FilmWorks.com** [www.filmworks.com] let you drop exposed film in the mail or at select photo counters. A few days later, e-mail directs you to your pictures on the Web. You also get a set of regular prints. The best part: You can point your mom to your page of snapshots, and she can order her own reprints with the click of a mouse.

The downside is that you may wait longer for pictures that cost more. But if you habitually forget to pick up your photos—or pay for reprints you never mail—it's a bargain.



2) THE MYTH OF THE WEB BARGAIN

THE PROMISE: The best bargains are on the Web.

THE REALITY: Sometimes.

Logic suggests that the lowest price for any product *should* be on the Web. The Internet supposedly slashes overhead, producing savings that can be passed along to you. The popular press, egged on by hungry online vendors, has propagated this myth with breathless reports of cheap airline tickets, computer products, and closeout merchandise.

But consider this: I compared average retail prices (as reported by PC Data, a market-research firm) with Web prices. I checked popular educational software, including Jumpstart First Grade and Kid Pix Studio Deluxe. My spot-check revealed that Web prices for these items were often higher, sometimes by 60



percent. Those that beat the average did so by less than a dollar, savings quickly erased by shipping costs. Free shipping that retailer **Outpost.com** [outpost.com] offers can sweeten the deal. Name-your-own-price sites, such as **Priceline.com** [priceline.com], fare no better. A *Wall Street Journal* survey found many travelers paid about the same for a ticket as if they had just called the airline.

On the Web, what you are really buying is convenience. Sure, you can find some great bargains, especially when a price war erupts, such as the one between Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. But it may take time and effort.



3) CAN YOU AFFORD A FREE PC?

THE PROMISE: Surf the Web with a new free PC.

THE REALITY: Be sure to read the fine print.

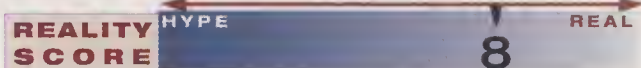
Remember when a cell phone was a big investment? Today, you'd be a fool to buy one—you get one "free" when you sign up for service. You may get your next computer the same way.

A number of start-ups, such as **Free PC** [freepc.com], **DirectWeb** [directweb.com], and **Enchilada** [www.enchilada.com], already offer "free" PCs. The companies aren't actually giving away the machines. Enchilada recovers

its cost over a four-year contract for Net access. Free PC makes you look at ads. And **Hand Technologies** [www.handtech.com] requires you to sell goods and services, multilevel marketing-style.

But if you can live with the terms, it can be a good deal. Take the Enchilada PC: It features a 300-MHz processor, Windows 98, a 15-inch monitor, and unlimited Net access—for \$19.99 a month, roughly the cost of your regular Internet service.

This trend signals a pivotal point where Net services become more valuable than the equipment on which they run. Down the road, this will be the norm. For now, read the fine print.



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TOUCHED BY THE NET

BY MATT RICHEL



DR. JEREMY BURGESS/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Polluters Beware

HOLD YOUR BREATH! THIS ENVIRONMENTAL SITE TRACKS TOXINS IN YOUR AREA—AND ISN'T AFRAID TO NAME NAMES

SCORECARD www.scorecard.org

In New York, they never do anything on a small scale. Take the Empire State Building, for example. Or the Statue of Liberty. Or the huge amounts of 1,3-butadiene and carbon tetrachloride—poisons that make the city's atmosphere as inviting as a dip in the East River.

When it comes to cancer-causing air pollutants, the Big Apple takes a backseat to no one. Then again, it's hardly the only region with a fine, imperceptible mist of carcinogens, what with Baltimore City big on benzene, El Paso high on carbon monoxide, and Philadelphia swimming in polychlorinated biphenyls, to name just a few.

The list of Top 10 counties with the highest cancer risk (from air pollutants, anyway)



comes courtesy of **SCORECARD**, a remarkable environmental Web site that's capable of turning even the hardest soul into an agoraphobic.

The list is but the beginning: Drawing on government databases, Scorecard provides information on air pollutants that factories, automobiles, and small businesses cause. On a macro level, the results, uh, stink: According to the Environmental Defense Fund, which operates the site, more than 204 million Americans breathe air more toxic than what Congress spelled out in goals it set a decade ago.

Anxious to know if you're one of the millions who live in the wrong place with the wrong grime? To get an answer, Scorecard expects of you only one prerequisite: that you know your ZIP code.

Pop it in and Scorecard pumps out a list of local polluters, which chemicals they emit, and the health threat associated with the toxins. "We're talking street level, neighborhood level," says William Pease, senior scientist at the EDF's regional office in Oakland, California.

The site draws its information from 200 major government databases, including the "Cumulative Exposure Project," a survey compiled by the Environmental Protection Agency that estimates the concentration of 140 air pollutants in every U.S. census tract. The EDF used a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain the database, then accessed federal guidelines to gauge the risks.

Among the other databases referenced: the Census of Agriculture, which focuses on rural pollution. It includes info on the impact of farm waste (read: *cow and pig manure*) on local drinking water supplies.

With such detailed—and sometimes in-

criminating—information, it's a wonder Scorecard doesn't draw more ire from the companies on which it reports, especially in an age when organizations are suing their employees for talking trash online.

Some chemical manufacturers *have* criticized the site for oversimplifying the threat. Jim Solyst, a spokesman for the Chemical Manufacturers Association, says that just because a company emits a high concentration of chemicals doesn't mean local residents are actually exposed to those levels.

Meanwhile, despite a few threats of litigation from companies listed on Scorecard, no one has sued the EDF since it erected the site in April 1998. "This information is bulletproof," says Pease, again noting that it comes entirely from government studies. The typical scenario, according to Pease, is that a company sees some information that is false on the site, "then checks it and finds out they gave the EPA the wrong number." Good thing New York is known for its honesty.

SMALL TOUCHES



CIRCLING TIANANMEN SQUARE

www.june4.org

It is said that time heals all wounds, but the keepers of **JUNE 4** believe that some injustices need a little more attention. The site is meant to remedy outstanding ills caused by the events on June 4, 1989, when China's military regime brutally quashed the pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Endorsed by dozens of human-rights organizations, this global campaign urges visitors to sign a digital petition to be sent to Chinese President Jiang Zemin. It calls for China to reevaluate the verdict condemning the protesters, bring human-

rights violators to justice, and end the harassment and detention of Chinese dissidents. The haunting lyrics of a song posted on the site sum up the cause: "The blood that lies upon the square cannot be washed away."



ROLLING THE DICE (AT 12)

www.wannabet.org

My dad can beat up your dad" is one playground taunt we've heard before. But imagine if your kids actually wagered on the fight. The **WANNA BET?** site seeks to keep the young ones (well, preteens, anyway) from getting addicted to gambling, and it offers them resources in case they do catch the bug. The "magazine" includes articles written by students, interviews with adults knowledgeable about the gambling scene, and suggested activities to be done in lieu of betting (hanging out with friends, playing sports). It sounds corny, but the tips could help *someone*. "The gambler feels hopeless and like running away," writes the Junior Editor. "If someone you know says these things, take him or her seriously."

DEFINING BEAUTY

www.beautyls.com

When her trailer home turned into an inferno back in 1991, Lucinda Gilbert was engulfed in a fireball. She survived (barely), but suffered burns on 57 percent of her body and lost most of her fingers. Now Gilbert has not only learned to accept and embrace her scars but is also urging other women to do the same. In a society that emphasizes flawless beauty, Gilbert operates **BEAUTY IS...**, a Web site devoted to the self-esteem of women disfigured through accident, injury, or surgery. The site includes chat and advice columns, such as a Scarf Tying Guide meant to aid users in covering whatever needs covering. "This is help for women who are not perfect," says Gilbert, who notes that she receives 100 e-mails a day.

TIDING UP: NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

www.tidepool.org

Newspapers come in all geographic varieties: local, regional, national. Ed Hunt runs one of the few news operations with a scope that's "bioregional." The site is called **TIDEPOL**, and it provides a compendium of environmental and economic news for the Northwest region of the United States. Hunt says the idea behind the site is to encourage residents, politicians, and businesspeople to think holistically and to create a "conservation-based economy." He says the site seeks to bring together residents who might otherwise think their interests are divided. "People who live in the region have a great deal in common, but they don't realize it, because borders and politics get in the way," Hunt says. Maybe we *can* all just get along.



CATALOGING DEATH: A GUIDE TO GENOCIDE

www.ess.uwe.ac.uk/genocide.htm

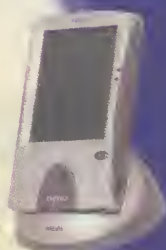
For all its great adventures—the television, the Internet, the Twinkie—the 20th century has shown the real dark side of the human condition, too. Nothing displays that resident evil more than incidents of genocide (such as the Holocaust, and the suffering in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Bosnia, to name a few). One site that explores these tragedies is the **WEB GENOCIDE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE**. Compiled by Dr. Stuart Stein, a lecturer at the University of the West of England, the site is an extensive compilation of articles and primary-source material on 20th-century genocide. Ever the instructor, Stein says that he put up the site as a way to educate and inform people across the globe. His other goal: to contribute to helping the world "bear witness to these all too prevalent behaviors, which are still occurring."



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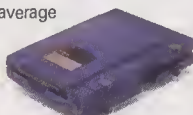
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BY DAVID SHEFF

Net Monitor

AN EXTENDED CHAT ABOUT HATE SITES WITH **RABBI ABRAHAM COOPER** OF CYBERWATCH, WHO BELIEVES THAT THE INTERNET CAN BE A 'TERRORIST TUTOR'



SCOTT C. SCHULMAN

CYBERWATCH www.wiesenthal.com/watch

In the aftermath of the horrific shooting rampage this spring in Littleton, Colorado, reports began to circulate that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the teenagers responsible, had been Internet devotees. It didn't take long for pundits and politicians once again to attack the Web as a gathering place for dangerous kooks, purveyors of weaponry, and suppliers of deadly information. The nearly instantaneous reactions ranged from disparate calls for censorship to Vice President Al Gore's speedily adopted Parents' Protection Page, an online resource—endorsed by such major Web players as Microsoft, Yahoo!, and America Online—designed to help parents shield their children from

inappropriate content.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, was seemingly everywhere, quoted on the issue in news reports and on TV talk shows. Cooper runs the Wiesenthal Center's **Cyberwatch** program [www.wiesenthal.com/watch], which monitors online hate groups. He argues that although the Web may not be responsible for the likes of Harris and Klebold, neither is it completely innocent. He points to such sites as that of the Utopian Anarchist Party, which urges young people to carry weapons, build bombs, kill the football team, and blow up their school.

Cooper is involved as well in many of the Wiesenthal Center's educational and lobbying projects, which touch on issues as diverse as neo-Nazis in America and modern-day slavery in Africa. He also manages the center's own Web site, [www.wiesenthal.org], devoted to a wide array of human-rights issues; and the extraordinary **Museum of Tolerance Multimedia Learning Center** [motic.wiesenthal.com], which features virtual exhibits on the Holocaust and related issues. In its recent, pre-Littleton report "Digital Hate 2000," the center warned about the dramatic rise in racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic, and other "hate" sites on the Net.

Cooper plans to invite presidential candidates Gore, Bill Bradley, and George W. Bush to visit the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and discuss the rabbi's passion: the Internet for good and evil. We caught up with Cooper on his way to board a flight to Belfast, where he was scheduled to meet with Catholic and Protestant leaders seeking advice about building their own, similarly focused museum.

Y-LIFE: You say you support the Internet, but you're quoted in many articles criticizing it. Exactly where do you stand?

COOPER: The Net's potential for education and even social action is enormous. We did an event called "Slavery Today," and people sent a message right to Kofi Annan, the U.N. head. So we celebrate the technology. What I'm doing is recognizing



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that the lunatic fringe has created a significant foothold on a part of the Web.

Y-LIFE: Do you blame the Net as a factor in the Littleton shootings?

COOPER: The Internet was their terrorist tutor. For quite some time, we have tracked 250 extremist groups. Their challenge has always been to spread their message to the mainstream of America. With the advent of cable television, they went to public access. When satellite TV came along, they tried to use it. But their point of view has always been marginalized. They struggled to find the right language.

Most Americans aren't interested in swastikas and white sheets. So two things happened. First, they found the Internet. Virtually every one of those groups went online. And second, they found a new way to talk to America. They learned to hide hate in patriotism. That's the whole militia movement that turned out Timothy McVeigh. In the past, how would people like these two kids get information about the wide world of other disaffected, angry people out there? Now, on the

**"WHEN THESE [COLUMBINE
HIGH SCHOOL] BOYS WENT
ON THE INTERNET, THEY
FOUND VALIDATION FOR THOSE
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Internet, they were able to get terrorists to personally train them.

Y-LIFE: If they wanted so badly to cause violence, isn't it likely that they would have—with or without the Internet?

COOPER: We don't know. We *do* know that they used the Internet to find an entire world of people as disaffected as they were.

Y-LIFE: But the point is that kids demented enough to become this violent don't need the Internet to act out. People always seem to look for a scapegoat: movies, TV shows, heavy-metal music....

COOPER: There is no doubt whatsoever

that their anger, their disconnection from society, and their psychological problems weren't created by the Internet. But when these boys went on the Internet, they found validation for those feelings, echoes of those feelings, and a guide on how to act them out.

Y-LIFE: And without the Net, they may have found that elsewhere.

COOPER: Maybe, but it's much less likely. It's why these groups have gone to the Net. The first was Stormfront.org, created by Don Black, a former associate of David Duke who took over the Klan in Florida. Black was in Florida but figured out that he could go from being a local or regional player in the hate business by going online and having an audience in the millions. He no longer had to worry about radio station managers or TV producers who would put him on at 4 a.m., or interviewers who would attack his position. He solved all those problems in one shot by going online. That was in 1995. There was one hate site. By March 1999, there were 1,426 sites we consider to be problematic. Two months later, there were 1,838—and counting.

Y-LIFE: Those who defend the Web's openness say that's the price to be paid, even if that means there are sites that reasonable people find abhorrent.

COOPER: That's right. By virtue of the way it was created and the way it grew, the Web is wide open. But there are many people doing business on the Web, just as there are many people doing business on the airwaves, and we have decided that there are some things we want on the airwaves and some that we don't. The Ku Klux Klan Youth

would probably not be allowed a show on NBC, which reaches millions of American homes. But they are allowed a place on the Web, because there are no standards.

Y-LIFE: Isn't that because the Web is an arena for conversations—some of which we like and some of which we don't?

COOPER: My attitude is that people should be socially responsible, and so should companies. These Net companies are very successful, and that position comes with some responsibility. They say: "I'm just the cable guy. I have no responsibility for what comes over the cable." But I maintain that

if you are making billions of dollars on this new technology, there *is* some responsibility. The cable company has to decide what it will and what it will not carry. At the very least, it has to make clear what is out there, so that consumers can make intelligent choices. Most people have no idea what's available on the Web, and thus easily accessible by our children. Do we want a place that brings in any type of information to every home without critique, comment, or the chance of rebuttal?

Y-LIFE: But the Net is also the place for critique, comment, and rebuttal.

COOPER: The vast majority of the Web isn't there for discussion and debate, but for marketing and advertising. There's a site on which you can take a noose and hang a black person. Most Americans agree with the ACLU that the best answer to speech is more speech. But these sites aren't about debate. They don't put dissenting views on their sites. We would hope that a child knows how to find dissenting views somewhere else on the Web, but what if he doesn't?

At least chat rooms and newsgroups are discussions. They're wonderful—the electronic equivalent of a soapbox. But even here, one of the big companies, AOL, has decided to monitor its chat rooms. Maybe that type of responsibility is reasonable for anyone in this business. I, as an adult, might be aware enough to understand if a site is designed for propaganda of a specific point of view. But some of this stuff is very clever, designed to bring in people—especially children—who might not know exactly where it could lead, or who might not know who is creating the propaganda in the first place. *That's* what concerns us.

Beyond that, do you want to carry and point to a site that has no purpose other than to teach someone how to make a bomb? The Utopian Anarchist Party site says it's run by a youth-oriented, antigovernment movement, and tells young people how they can conceal weapons and build bombs. It says schools and juvenile psychiatric centers that prescribe antidepressants are evil and should be destroyed, and it gives a list of "Top 10 Songs to Shoot Your School By." Maybe the author of that site has the

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right to create it and put it on the Web, but you also have the right to decide if you want to carry it on your service and point to it with your directory.

The scariest thing about many of these sites are the links. You can start with a traditional racist group and wind up at specialized sites for children who are 8 or 9 years old, very creative sites. They use [characters from kids' TV] to get their messages across, but their message is unmistakable. Follow more links and you wind up at the site of Matt Hale, who leads one of the fastest-growing racist groups in the country. He's the next-generation David Duke who shows up on *Politically Incorrect*, glib in a three-piece suit. But when you go to the Death to Zog site—zog stands for Zionist occupation government—you find teens spraying the pope with a machine gun, and there is a

"Kill the Jew" page and a site devoted to denigrating blacks.

Y-LIFE: So would you censor the Net?

COOPER: Why don't we at least migrate to the Net arena the same uneasy discussions we have in the rest of the world about where we draw the line? Who are you not going to take an ad from? Who are you going to list in your directory? We make those choices all the time.

Y-LIFE: You keep mentioning directories, but their function is to list and catalog, not editorialize.

COOPER: Yahoo! and all the big and small [sites like it] are interested in one thing: the maximum number of people using their service. They don't care about content. But should the people at a company that has made \$10 billion in three years be able to shrug their shoulders and say, "Who, me? I just make a list?"

You are *guiding* people! In some cases, you are guiding them inaccurately. Under *Martin Luther King*, there is mking.org, a site devoted to King—or so it seems when you look at the picture of his family. I'm a pretty sophisticated guy, and it took me a couple of minutes to realize that this is

"THE SCARIEST THING ABOUT MANY OF THESE SITES ARE THE LINKS. YOU CAN START WITH A TRADITIONAL RACIST GROUP AND WIND UP AT SPECIALIZED SITES FOR CHILDREN"

CUT AND PASTE

Hostility Finds a Place to Thrive

From the Wiesenthal Center's Cyberwatch site, excerpted from "Hate on the Internet"

The emergence of the information superhighway has transformed the rules of engagement in the marketplace of ideas.

...Small wonder that more than 50 hate groups, long frustrated by their inability to package and deliver their message in a consistent and attractive format, have rushed to embrace the new technologies. Consider:

- In Chicago, the Minuteman electronic bulletin board has been posting virulent text and visual homophobic files. One cartoon depicts a gorilla complaining that it was infected with AIDS by a black.

- In California, following passage of Proposition 187, Prodigy's online users were encouraged to send \$20 and sign on with a group 2,000 miles away that

promised to "protect" the white race by ridding America of the "hordes" of Mexican residents—legal and illegal—who threaten to "overrun" the country.



- An Internet posting regularly offers, to the first 250 inquiries, a 30-minute "documentary," filmed at Auschwitz last year, that purportedly shows the site of a "swimming pool" where camp inmates relaxed "after a long day at

work." A "tour" of a gas chamber claims to prove that no one was gassed at that infamous death camp.

In all these cases, the rhetoric and visuals are not new. What is new is the opportunity to cheaply, effectively and directly market hate to a coveted audience—the young, who are the heaviest users of cyberspace.

a hate site designed to bring people in, sucker them in, and indoctrinate them. On the reading list? David Duke.

If you look up information about the Holocaust, it's a matter of Russian roulette. If you look up *Auschwitz*, you can get sites devoted to the denial of the Holocaust. A student who is researching the Holocaust could easily come upon them and base his paper—and ultimately his understanding—on this site. In the Library of Congress, they would include a book that denied the Holocaust, but it would be listed under "Holocaust Revisionism."

Maybe we can look to that system as a model. It's easy to see the problem when you look at medicine. The Net is wonderful: You can be in Nome, Alaska, and find out about a new treatment for a loved one's cancer. But you may also end up going to a quack. Are we saying that no one is responsible?

Y-LIFE: Perhaps the individual is responsible.

COOPER: And children?

Y-LIFE: How about their parents?

COOPER: Everyone is saying that Eric Harris's parents are at least partly responsible. Well, sure. But what if Eric Harris's father was a responsible parent and looked over his son's shoulder at the Internet and saw a Web site that says "This Site Is Here Only for Research and Entertainment; Don't Try This at Home" and then gives step-by-step instructions for bomb making? The father picks up the phone and calls the service. Will—or

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Excerpts from selected sites

National Alliance

After the sickness of "multiculturalism," which is destroying America, Britain, and every other Aryan nation in which it is being promoted, has been swept away, we must again have a racially clean area of the earth for the further development of our people. We must have White schools, White residential neighborhoods and recreation areas, White workplaces, White farms and countryside. We must have no non-Whites in our living space, and we must have open space around us for expansion.

We will do whatever is necessary to achieve this White living space and to keep it White.

Stormfront—"Kid's page"

Hello my name is Derek, I am ten years old. I used to attend public school, where I learned from first hand experience the truth about race. Now I am in home schooling and I am learning a lot more than I did when I was in public school. From this knowledge I have decided to make this kids page to reach other kids of the globe.... I will be adding fun games, contest, polls etc.

White people are taught in school to be ashamed of their heritage. Teachers cram as many politically correct ideas as they can get into your head in 180 days. All the great white accomplishments throughout history are diminished. Therefore, I think that now is the time that all of the white people across the globe should rise above the lies and be proud of who we are. To take back our freedom and win for all to see our heritage in its greatest glory.

Holocaust Rebuttal

It is true that Hitler Germany wanted to remove the Jews from the German people's "sphere of influence." The country was at war—a war largely seen as having been instigated by international banking Jewry, and Jews were seen as a corroding influence, not only financially but also racially and culturally.... Hitler Germany was adamant in not wanting Jews to be part of Germany because they were held to be harmful to the fabric of an ethnically cohesive society as it was woven by Hitler. The Führer wanted Jews "out of his face." He was not fond of them. But that is where the story stops.

should—the service remove the Web page? AOL has decided to take down sites that it felt were inappropriate, though not always consistently. Were they wrong to do so? By reserving the right to throw groups or individuals off if they cross certain lines, AOL is deciding to be responsible for what it carries.

Y-LIFE: But no one runs the Web, so no one makes those decisions about it.

COOPER: There is always someone making the decision to allow or disallow the information: the service provider, the company or institution that hosts the Web sites. People can write any book they want, but someone else must decide if he will publish it, and someone else must decide if he wants to carry it in his bookstore, and someone else if it should be in his library.

Y-LIFE: If you're mostly concerned about children, do filters solve the problem?

COOPER: They may take care of the next Eric Harris who has a father who will take the time to block the offending sites, though you and I know that a kid with the savvy to get around Doom and Quake will get around the software. Yes, adults have to become educated, and software may be useful for some problems—at least the beginning of the problem of protecting children. But the industry itself cannot walk away from at least the same degree of involvement that NBC has for what it broadcasts.

Y-LIFE: But the Net, a public forum, is protected by the First Amendment, whereas NBC is a private institution broadcasting on a regulated frequency. The First Amendment protects the speech of hate groups. The Supreme Court has continued to protect it.

COOPER: If the online companies, big and small, took a stand, it would be continuing an American tradition: reserving the right not to do business with terrorists. It's not about free speech. They can say what they want, and they can say it on their Web site. But what happens at *that* point?

Y-LIFE: What's your view on free speech itself? Should hate speech be protected?

COOPER: Every communication isn't free speech. If every communication is free speech, obscene phone calls should be allowed. They aren't. A combination of regulations and technology helped curtail the number of obscene phone calls.

I don't know what the answers will be, but the geniuses who are creating this revolution have to put on their thinking caps and consider the social issues. As brothers and sisters, parents and children, maybe they must come up with new digital strategies. The music industry is reeling from the pirating of music online. A new system will come out of all this that will take into account the existence of the Internet. When there's a will—if it has to do with economic well-being—there's a way.


Y-LIFE: There are FCC regulations for television and radio. Would you want more that cover the Net?

COOPER: I'm not advocating regulations, necessarily. But someone must take responsibility.

Y-LIFE: What do you think of Al Gore's Parents' Protection Page?

COOPER: It's probably a good starting point for kids and parents. It can help. It's an

"THE GENIUSES WHO ARE CREATING THIS REVOLUTION HAVE TO PUT ON THEIR THINKING CAPS AND CONSIDER THE SOCIAL ISSUES"

example that things can be done without regulations in this world. It's the way we can go on these issues. Let's take this wonderful new technology, use it well, and celebrate it. But let's also face the danger that is inherent in it. We cannot shrug and hide our heads in the sand. If we do, there will be more Littletons, I'm afraid. 



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WILL THE Y2K SKY REALLY FALL?

DESPITE THE SQUAWKING, MILLENNIUM CHAOS IS MORE FOLKLORE THAN FACT

A MAN IS SHOPPING ONLINE. In the dim burn of his 21-inch monitor, he scans his list.

Freeze-dried food? Check. Kerosene lanterns? Check.

Extra bullets for fighting off roving packs of wild dogs? Check.

No, he is not reviewing a checklist for a Cold War bomb shelter. He is checking his online shopping cart in preparation for his 1999 New Year's Eve party. And if you are among the millions who are convinced that Y2K will bring about the end of the civilized world, chances are you have considered compiling a similar list.

But should you? In a word: no.

Call me a rebel, but I am going on record to say that the world will not plunge from its axis in four months. Let me explain.

You know about Y2K, which has become shorthand for the "year 2000 computer glitch." You know it is a concern because some computers and software, particularly older versions, use two digits instead of four to keep track of years. You know that as a result, they are unable to distinguish between the years 2000 and 1900.

You also know this has

prompted doomsayers everywhere to warn that computer networks—banking networks, utility networks, defense networks—will collapse when the calendar turns over to January 1, 2000, leading to the wholesale ruin of foolhardy skeptics and to the sweet salvation of well-prepared believers.

You don't have to look far on the Internet to catalog the grim predictions. My favorites include warnings of nuclear missiles that will launch of their own accord, automated teller machines that will refuse to dispense cash,

BY ANNETTE HAMILTON > ILLUSTRATION BY RICK SEALOCK



and tap water that will turn into a muddy trickle.

Here's the most exasperating part: Ninety-five percent of the Y2K hysteria is a hoax, planted by people who stand to gain, propagated by headline-hungry publishers, and perpetuated by purveyors of rumor rather than truth.

Frankly, we in the media deserve a swift kick for making the panic worse. We have catapulted the once-obscure year 2000 computer problem into a major event. It has been on the cover of *Time*, mentioned in hundreds of CNN stories, deliberated at the United Nations, debated in Congress—even discussed in a presidential address to the nation.

You would think they had canceled *Frasier*.

And all the sci-fi hyperbole has prompted people to take very real steps to ward off doom. They are running for the hills (literally), hoarding food, stockpiling weapons, and, because ignorance

withdrawals by anxious bank customers. But your local bank vault still may be the best place for your life savings. Consider the elderly Texas woman who withdrew \$60,000 and buried it in her backyard, only to find it gone the next day. "We think it was her family that convinced her to put the money out there," Texas Banking Commissioner Catherine Ghiglieri has said.

High Flying. You can stop worrying about domestic air travel. Following successful tests of the nation's air-traffic control systems, the Federal Aviation Administration reports that communications, navigation, and radar systems should operate normally on New Year's Eve. The agency is so confident, in fact, that FAA chief Jan Garvey has booked a flight from Washington, D.C., to Dallas for that night.

Some airlines—Virgin Atlantic Airways, for instance—may refuse to fly when the millennium clock rolls over.

■ In Hong Kong, the harbormaster's computers froze up because of Y2K. (No ships collided.)

■ In Stockholm, computerized taxi meters malfunctioned. (Riders were undercharged.)

■ In Minnesota, a woman who is over 100 years old received an order to report to kindergarten. (She refused.)

IF Y2K IS JUST A HUMDRUM annoyance, why has it been touted as the planet's greatest danger since Elvis Presley's hips? Simple: Nothing sells like disaster. If you read the stories more closely, you'll find that the shrillest warnings come from people who want to sell you something.

Consultants. As the millennium draws near, doomsaying Y2K experts are able to name their price, thanks to the fear they help to create. Estimates suggest that the price tag for a worldwide fix will run between \$300 billion and \$858 billion.

WE IN THE MEDIA DESERVE A SWIFT KICK FOR MAKING THE PANIC WORSE

loves company, encouraging the rest of us to join the global panic attack.

Perhaps some historical perspective is in order. Consider what happened at the end of the last millennium. Caught in a similar mania, many Europeans surrendered their possessions to churches, in anticipation of the End. Unfortunately, some historians add, when life went on, the churches did not return the goods.

Do I have to say that you and I are living proof that they may have overreacted? But perhaps you need further reassurance. Consider the following:

Lights On. You can stop investing in candles. The North American Electric Reliability Council says it is unlikely you will be plunged into darkness at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2000. The council reports that more than 75 percent of testing and repair work on the electricity supply network was completed by March. And most errors uncovered to date were "cosmetic or nuisance-type errors, such as incorrect dates in logs."

Supply and Demand. You can stop stashing spare coins. The Federal Reserve is printing billions of new dollars, enough to accommodate millions of year-end

Others, such as British Airways, reportedly will send their executives into the air on New Year's Eve to convince passengers that the skies are safe. Regardless, travelers refuse to be grounded: Travel agents say that end-of-year ticket sales are running ahead of last year's. Heck, even Michael Jackson, the notoriously neurotic pop star, will be in the air on New Year's Eve, flying between millennium concerts in Sydney and Honolulu.

OF COURSE, TECHNOLOGY failures *do* affect our lives in unpredictable ways. Take the Galaxy IV satellite's 1998 failure, which interrupted millions of financial transactions and interfered with television and radio broadcasts.

Still, life went on. The breakdown had little effect on people's daily lives. In fact, when a popular talk-radio program in the Boston area solicited comments from anyone inconvenienced by the outage, not a single caller complained. The typical remark: It was nice to be out of touch for a few days.

Now, that's not to say that Y2K won't have an impact. Just look at what has happened already:

Software Companies. Companies throughout the technology industry have jumped on the Y2K bandwagon, shamelessly exploiting alarm over a computing apocalypse to sell more products. Oracle Corp., for example, ran a full-page ad with a giant Y2K logo in August and September 1998 editions of *The Wall Street Journal*, pledging to "solve a problem that took 2,000 years to create." Apple Computer ran a 1999 Super Bowl ad gloating that its machines have always been compliant.

Gloom Merchants. In the White Mountains of Arizona, urban planner Russ Voorhees is leasing plots for a year 2000 survival colony, guaranteeing electricity and satellite communications to those who fear digital doom when the millennium arrives. Chicago investment manager Dennis Grabow is building a hedge fund for investors in his Millennium Investment Corp.—in the event of a Y2K-triggered stock market downturn.

Media Outlets (ours included). By running scare stories, magazines, TV shows, and Web sites benefit not only from increased readership and viewing time, but also from ads selling solutions to the "problem."

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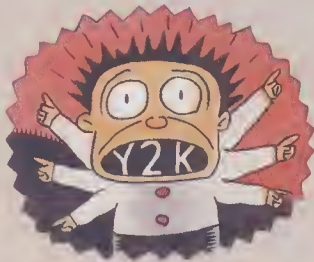
In Arizona, you can head to the Web and renew your auto registration in minutes, thanks to IBM Web servers.

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I'm OK, You're Y2K

In the waning months of 1999, you can't swing a cow over your head without hitting someone who has an opinion about Y2K. The most passionate have built soapboxes on the Web. Here is a sampling of sites to suit your mood.

Y2K SITES THAT SCARE



Y2K IS A MAGNET FOR FRINGE ZEALOTS and theorists. There is no shortage of apocalyptic doomsayers who prophesy total social breakdown, widespread chaos, and mass starvation. Paul Milne, a former commodities broker and a vocal Y2K survivalist, warns that by "the middle of 2000, New York City will look like Beirut." Gary North, a Christian economist and an official Y2K alarmist, claims that "martial law will be declared no later than Jan. 15." Research firm GartnerGroup, the unofficial consultancy of the Millennium Meltdown, calculates that the crisis will linger for 30 months and cost \$300 billion to \$600 billion, just for software.

The really spooky stuff is here:

Gary North's Y2K Links and Forums

www.garynorth.com

The historian-cum-doomsayer paints a mighty grim picture.

The Year 2000 Disaster

www.webleyweb.com/y2k/y2k.html

Helpful tips and links for stocking up on food, water, and weapons.

Heritage West 2000

www.heritagefarms2000.com

You, too, can lease space in this fully Y2K-compliant Arizona community.

Y2K@Utne.com:

Y2K Citizen's Action Guide

www.utne.com/y2k

Preparing for the apocalypse can be fun for the whole family!

Y2K SITES THAT SOOTHE



OTHERS (MYSELF INCLUDED) BELIEVE THAT Y2K has been relentlessly overhyped. For a less hysterical perspective, visit these sites:

ZDY2K

www.zdnet.com/enterprise/zdy2k

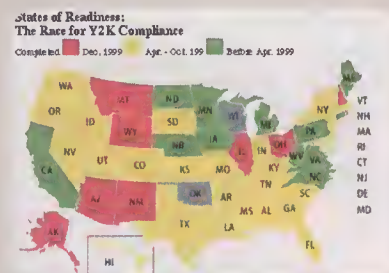
Sensible advice, research reports, news, tips, and commentary. (Ziff-Davis, which operates the site, also publishes this magazine.)

▼States of Readiness:

The Race for Y2K Compliance

www.cio.com/archive/040199_usamap.html

Click your state for an instant Y2K-readiness report, from CIO.com.



Everything 2000

www.everything2000.com

One-stop resource for Y2K events, shopping, humor, and millennial baby updates.

Victory Yacht Cruises

victory-cruises.com/y2k_expeditions_chile.html

Skip the fall of civilization by taking a 10-day tour of Chile, Antarctica, and other exotic southern destinations that departs on Christmas Day.

Gambier, Ohio, for example, offers Y2K-guaranteed savings accounts. Appliance vendor Sanyo bills battery-operated household appliances (cheese graters, can openers, and the like) as "Y2K compliant." And insurance companies, including Lloyd's of London, offer Y2K policies.

Lawyers. At least 80 Y2K cases already have been filed. More will clog the court system for years if even a fraction of the predicted disasters actually happen. Finger pointers will go after software makers, hardware makers, third-party consultants, suppliers, and subcontractors. Plus anyone else who might be remotely to blame for a disruption in service—especially anyone with an insurance policy that might cover a fat jury award.

IRONICALLY, MANY KEY Y2K dates have already come and gone, without a collapse of Society as We Know It. For instance:

January 4, 1999, the first working day of 1999. As ZDNet's Mitch Ratcliffe notes, this was perhaps "the most important date for getting a bead on how computers will handle Y2K problems." Some accounting systems operate a year ahead as they set renewal dates for such things as insurance premiums and bank loans. (Did you notice any bank failures on January 5? I thought not.)

April 9, 1999, the 99th day of the year. Programmers often used a row of nines as a software code for *stop*. (For the record, no planes fell out of the sky that day.)

July 1, 1999, the first day of fiscal year 2000 for many companies. (No stock market collapse that day.)

Expiration dates of 00 or beyond on credit cards. (I bet your cards still work.)

SO, BACK TO OUR ONLINE shopper's New Year's Eve party. And, perhaps, yours.

First, cross the 5,500-watt generator off your shopping list. Not having to hunt for that will free up your time to take a few prudent precautions that could have some actual benefit. Yes, I do believe in prudence. There is so much extremism out in the marketplace, you may feel you don't have to sweat the big stuff if I suggest the few areas that *should* concern you: **Pills.** If you take prescription medication, consider stockpiling enough for a couple of months. *continued on page 185*

Starting at \$99, it's power protection that pays for itself in seconds



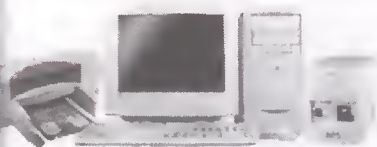
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your PC from power snafus and electrical spikes."
- PC Computing 4/99



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I'm OK, You're Y2K

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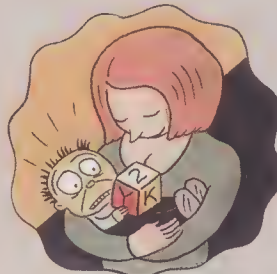
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www.cio.com/archive/040199_usamap.html
Click your state for an instant Y2K-readiness report, from CIO.com.

States of Readiness:
The Race for Y2K Compliance
Completed: Dec. 1999 Aged: Oct. 1999 Better: Apr. 1999



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COVER STORY

POP STAR



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THE BEASTIE BOYS

fight for their right
to take their music online.
If you can't lick 'em, join 'em

► By Jason Gross ◀

Born of humble white-dopes-on-punk beginnings, the Beastie Boys have spent the past 17 years evolving into one of the pop world's strongest forces. The group's debut LP, 1986's *Licensed to Ill*, sold more than 5 million copies and helped erase the color line in rap. Subsequent albums, including the classic *Paul's Boutique*, found the trio stretching lyrically and musically. After becoming entrepreneurs—the Beasties' label, Grand Royal Records, inked a deal with Capitol in 1993—the group developed a more mature attitude, not just in its music but in its sense of social responsibility. Since 1996, the Beastie Boys have organized the yearly Tibetan Freedom Concerts to raise awareness of the Chinese-occupied nation's plight. The Beasties' latest release, the multiplatinum *Hello Nasty*, debuted at No. 1, setting a 1998 record for first-week sales.

The Internet has proved to be both an ideal and a tricky place for the band. Last summer, the Beasties started posting MP3 tracks on their site along with their new single. At the end of

► PHOTOS BY HAMISH BROWN ◀

Public Offering

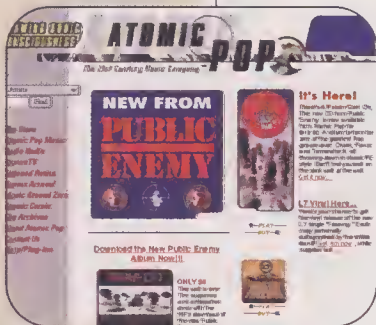
With their new record, rap legends Public Enemy become Net legends

In a *Y-Life* interview earlier this year, Chuck D—the brains behind rap group Public Enemy—talked at length about the state of the music industry in the wired era. At the time, Chuck mused about the Net's effect on the music industry and promised aggressive online movement. And then he put his group's music where his mouth was.

In April, Public Enemy cut a deal with the Net record label Atomic Pop [www.atomicpop.com] to distribute its first non-soundtrack record in five years, *There's a Poison Goin' On*. The first single, "Do You Wanna Go Our Way???", was available via free MP3 download by early May. The album was sold exclusively online—both at the Atomic Pop site and at Amazon.com—until June 21, when it was shipped to retail stores. Prices varied depending on the retail method: The album was priced at \$10 for the CD through online ordering, \$8 via download, and \$16.95 in the unprecedented Zip disk format. Record stores sold it at regular CD prices.

The deal was the first in which a group of Public Enemy's stature has used the Net as the principal channel of distribution. "Chuck D has been a music visionary, and will now prove to be a music-business visionary, as well," announced Al Teller, Atomic Pop's president. Teller, a veteran of the music business, founded Atomic Pop earlier this year. "Al was someone I had worked with in the past," says Chuck. "He was one of the first people we talked to, and the last."

Despite some early snarls with Atomic Pop, including a week's delay on the downloadable-music side, Chuck expresses satisfaction with the deal. "If we sell only one record, we're good," he says. "What we're doing is drafting a template for the future. It's past the meaning of the Public Enemy album. It's a new state of existence."—B.G.



the year, Capitol persuaded them to remove the tracks, only to relent when the Beasties' online fans revolted. In March, the group launched an online radio station, **Grand Royal Radio** [www.grandroyal.com/grRadio]. And May brought another online initiative: exclusive remixes, available for free download, that doubled as Kosovar-refugee relief fund-raisers (for each download, both the band and Microsoft donated \$1 to various charities).

With ceaseless globe-trotting since July 1998, the Beasties were difficult to pin down. Schedules exploded without any advance notice, sometimes for no reason, sometimes for good reason. MCA, aka Adam Yauch, postponed an interview after he scored an audience with the Dalai Lama. The Beasties finally checked in en

route to Italy and agreed to talk about the Net despite screaming roadside fans and a temperamental cell phone. MCA and Mike D (aka Michael Diamond) were obliging. Ad-Rock (aka Adam Horovitz) opted to supervise the group's sound check instead, in part because he's the least computer-literate of the three.

Y-LIFE: *Let's start simply. Why is the Internet important to the Beastie Boys?*

MIKE D: At first, it was this completely new forum where all of a sudden we could put together what we've done. As

it evolved, it became clear to us that it was an amazing means of communicating directly to our fans and to people in general. So instead of us putting our stuff out there and, say, it having to go through a media format, what we're putting out is going directly to the people out there who are interested.

MCA: I wouldn't necessarily say that the Net is important to the band, but I think it's a great format for the discussion of ideas. I think that in many ways, it can take the better aspects of television and magazines and combine them in an open way. I like the anarchy of it. I hope there aren't too many regulations put on the whole thing. I kind of like the way that anybody can communicate with anybody.

Y-LIFE: *Why did the band decide to start its own online radio station?*

MIKE D: A lot of times, like with the way we make records, technology will come along and we'll end up using that technology to make something new. The Net radio station came about after we were shown the SHOUTcast technology. Suddenly, we were able to have streaming audio on our site, working like a radio station. Right now, we can branch out and have all kinds of music that we're interested in that maybe goes beyond the music that we're making.

MCA: It sounded like a really cool thing, the way that anybody could put stuff out there. The important thing about it is how many people can be involved in broadcasting. A lot of this stuff, like radio stations and record labels, has been so exclusive for so long.

Three MCs and one WWW: The Beasties post live photos on their official site.



PHOTO: IAN HICKERS

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*Key Labs, March 1999. On a LAN connection, Internet Explorer 5 was on average 20% faster than Netscape Navigator 4.5 and as much as 60% faster on certain sites.
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Check your head: From left to right, Ad-Rock, MCA, and Mike D.

Y-LIFE: *Why did you choose to use the MP3 format for your music online?*

MIKE D: Again, that was just a technology that came along, and all of a sudden we were able to put up some live songs that we'd been doing on tour. For all we knew, kids probably had their own bootleg versions of it anyway, 'cause we'd been on tour for a while. We thought that if people were going to check it out, at least let it come from *our* Web site.

Y-LIFE: *How do you see the whole controversy that happened with your record company when the group originally put the MP3 files online?*

MIKE D: I think it actually got a little blown out of proportion. We had the files up there, and it had been drawing a lot of attention. All of a sudden, Capitol decided, "There's all these kids downloading music, and our biggest-selling artist is doing this? We can't have this happening!" They called us up and said, "Please take them off. We're getting all

this pressure from other labels. We shouldn't have artists doing this right now." We told them that if we took them down, there would be a huge outcry. Sure enough, we had piles of e-mails and responses saying, "What's going on here?" It got pretty far, and they couldn't stop it. So the files went back up.

When we switched from vinyl to CD, it changed how people listen to music. The same thing could happen here, but I don't know. You could go from CDs to digital downloading to digital streaming. Is that going to change the way that everything functions? Maybe, maybe not.

MCA: To the best of my understanding, the whole controversy is over how record labels are going to be able to charge money for music. I think that's a fear that's come up before, when cassette tapes first came out. They thought that everyone would tape records, and the record labels wouldn't be able to sell them any-

more. I personally don't think it'll be much of a problem.

MIKE D: I definitely think it's going to change things. It's just a matter of how and in what ways. Anyone who says they know exactly how it's going to happen is either a real genius or is lying.

MCA: I guess in some ways, you could say that the Internet changed the way the music business operates. I think record stores are a good thing, though. When we first started out as a hard-core band, we spent a lot of time hanging out at Rat Cage Records, which ended up starting a label. There's something fun about being in a record store, looking at different albums, and sharing ideas with people.

There was a really interesting quote from Chuck D. He was thinking about music differently: People shouldn't be looking at selling 100,000 records; people should be looking at selling 30,000. People have been very spoiled that way. Maybe more people will be playing music and putting music on the Web. There might be more styles and niches, rather than just a few mainstream artists.

Y-LIFE: *Have your Web site and the Net in general helped spread the word about the Tibetan Freedom Concerts?*

MCA: Yeah, I think it's been a good forum for people who are into that type of communication. It's been good not just for sharing information but also for discussion. That's an important aspect of what's going on with the Tibetan shows.

Y-LIFE: *What do you like to check out when you go online?*

MIKE D: I'm on tour, so I really don't have much time. I'm strictly an e-mail kind of person. When I do have time beyond the e-mail realm, it's probably for the most part checking out different types of music and getting information about it that I can't read about necessarily in a popular magazine.

Y-LIFE: *As musicians and label heads, what kinds of things do you hope will happen with the Internet?*

MIKE D: A record label will listen to someone's demo now and say, "I think it's great, but I don't think we can put it out, 'cause it's not going to reach enough people." I think those days are over now. If someone thinks it's creative and it's great, they can put it out there. And if it reaches two people or 200,000 people, it can work on all those different levels.



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SARAH SMILES



KAREN HILL



By Cindy Waxer

SARAH McLACHLAN hasn't always been a fan of the Internet. "When the Net first started," the Canadian pop superstar says, "I was dead set against

it, because I watched everybody at Nettwerk [McLachlan's Vancouver-based record company] not talk to each other anymore. They just e-mailed each other, and I was really anti-e-mail for a while. It was like, 'God, you people are turning into zombies.'...[E-mail] is a great escape. It's a way to communicate but not actually have to deal with people. And I don't know if that's very healthy."

These days, though, McLachlan has set aside her concerns.

Just take a look at the official online home of **Lilith Fair** [www.lilithfair.com], the women's rock festival McLachlan launched in 1997. Jam-packed with news briefs, artist biographies, and links to national nonprofit organizations, the site also lets surfers cast their votes in daily polls, check out posted pics of the festival's behind-the-scenes action, and score a ride to a nearby show through chat rooms.

The festival's three-year life span has coincided with the explosive growth of online media and, more recently, the increasing presence of women on the Net. In a year that has seen the launch of such high-profile Web events as Candice Carpenter's iVillage initial public offering, the Lilith Fair site is ready to consolidate its reputation as the Web's first stop for fans of rock's top women. This year's concert tour hits 32 cities in the United States and Canada, and includes such acts as Sheryl Crow, the Dixie Chicks, Deborah Cox, Luscious Jackson, the Pretenders, and McLachlan herself, who is touring behind a new live album, *Mirrorball*. The festival has pushed a lot of traffic to the site.


This year, the Lilith Fair site is presenting one of the world's first online star searches. Sponsored by the e-commerce company Xoom.com, which also hosts the site, the contest invites North American artists to submit a one-song CD or cassette, which is then converted to an MP3 file and posted at the Lilith Fair area of Xoom's Media Sharehouse. Visitors can download, listen to, and vote for their favorite songs. And on August 10, a panel of judges is scheduled to announce a winner, whose grand prize will include performing at

the August 19 Lilith Fair stop in Tinley Park, Illinois.

McLachlan is no stranger to innovative online promotions. In late April, *Mirrorball* climbed to the top of Amazon.com's Chart Toppers list in less than 24 hours. Much of the popularity resulted from an exclusive cross-promotion between McLachlan and the leviathan Internet retailer. Amazon.com sold advance copies of both the record and McLachlan's new cookbook (*Plenty: A Collection of Sarah McLachlan's Favourite Recipes*, Madrigal Press); invited visitors to read and listen to an exclusive interview with the artist; and even gave away two Liquid Audio tracks, "I Will Remember You" and "Building a Mystery."

McLachlan isn't the only diva diving into the digital music pool. The 5½ Weeks Tour, scheduled for late this summer, has its own female superstars: Canadian Alanis Morissette and red-haired ivory-tickler Tori Amos. McLachlan seems unimpressed by the pairing. "Who knows with MP3.com," she says. "I'm sure they said, 'Oh, Alanis Morissette wants to [sign a sponsorship deal] with us. Sure, we'll promote that, because it's easy; everybody already knows who she is.' But think if an unknown tried to do it."

For her part, McLachlan prefers to see MP3 as another way of distributing music—no more, no less. "For years and years, people made tapes for each other, and MP3 could be seen that way as well, which I think is really great. It's a way of getting music out there," she says. "Yeah, OK, you may lose a sale here and there. But it's not really a big deal."

If she declines to get involved in the political aspects of MP3, there's another political reminder that McLachlan can't escape: Monica Lewinsky sent a missive to Bill Clinton in which the former intern selected McLachlan's emotive song "Do What You Have to Do" to represent her affection for the president. "I thought it was kind of interesting that they both have my record," McLachlan says with a chuckle. "It's even more interesting that the track she picked is a song about a really disastrous relationship." 



MICHELE LAURITANIS/AGES

Supposed Current MP3 Junkie

**Alanis Morissette gets a tour sponsorship from the digital music giant.
But whose hand is in whose pocket?**

When pop superstar Alanis Morissette announced in April that her summer tour, coheadlined by fellow pop superstar Tori Amos, would be sponsored in part by MP3.com, record-industry types fell over themselves trying to parse the meaning of the deal.

Morissette, of course, is a major-label artist, signed to the Warner Bros. sublabel Maverick Records. And MP3.com is a major nuisance for major labels, the chief promoter of the controversial digital music format that some say will topple the record industry. Stranger bedfellows are difficult to imagine. So what were they doing under the covers together?

As it turns out, they were making money. In exchange for lending her name, Morissette reportedly received an equity stake in MP3.com expected to be worth millions after the San Diego-based company's summer initial public offering. The IPO, filed in mid-May, was expected to raise \$115 million. Morissette was given an undisclosed amount of preferred stock.

Early rumors of a more substantive alliance between singer and site—possibly an exclusive MP3 download of new studio or live tracks—never materialized, though. Instead, the 5½ Weeks Tour will chart a more conservative course, creating online areas for

Morissette and Amos that contain streamed audio of live versions of songs recorded on the road [alanisandtori.com].

The sponsorship obviously boosts the visibility of MP3, which is locked in a struggle with other digital music technologies—not only those of such companies as a2b Music and Liquid Audio but also as-yet-unveiled formats such as the Secure Digital Music Initiative, which is expected to be operational by late this year. MP3.com founder Michael Robertson has been positively jubilant. "If we did it once, don't you think we can do it again?" he said. "The interesting wild card is that for artists, MP3 is awesome. It wasn't a negotiation between us and Alanis Morissette. It was a negotiation between Alanis Morissette and her record label."

For her part, Morissette has not said much about the deal. In fact, she didn't even attend the April 27 press conference, instead sending a prepared statement that read, in part, "Maverick, MP3.com, and I approached this with an open mind, which is what I believe is required whenever there is a shift or an evolution in technology."

The tour begins August 18 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Morissette can also be seen at this summer's **Woodstock 99** festival [www.woodstock.com], which will be held July 23–25 in Rome, New York. —B.G.



OUT OF TUNE

Brazen pirates, lost profits, crossed wires. In the face of MP3, what's a beleaguered record industry to do?

By David Grad



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE BRODNER

By the middle of last year, you could almost smell the fear in the boardrooms of the major record labels. That's when well-heeled executives began to realize that their profits could disappear in the time it takes to click a mouse and download a pirated MP3 audio file. That fear turned to terror when, shortly before Christmas, Diamond Multimedia Systems introduced the Rio, the first portable MP3 player. On a day when children across America were waking gleefully to open the presents in their stockings, recording-company moguls were left pondering the lump of coal that had just been dropped into theirs: The age of digital music distribution was about to begin—without them.

Confronted with the prospect of wide-scale theft and free distribution of its product over the Net, the music industry quickly launched a counterattack through its trade association, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The counterattack had a name: the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI). It also had a goal and a timetable: to design a standard for digital music by March 2000. But did it have a chance in hell?

At the outset, the RIAA's plan seemed simple enough. The group hoped to organize all the major players in the record, high-tech, and consumer-electronics industries into a single forum, which would then design a solution to the problem of unauthorized digital music. The intention was for SDMI not only to protect recording copyrights and artist royalties, but also to benefit consumers by ensuring that

all products bearing its mark would function flawlessly with one another, thereby creating the confidence necessary for the majors to release their vast catalogs of pop hits for distribution over the Net. In other words, a successful SDMI effort would result in legal, fee-based downloads of Madonna, Metallica, and Eminem that could then be played on any PC or portable device stamped with the SDMI seal of approval.

The problem, of course, is that in the rapidly metamorphosing world of cyberspace, March 2000 might as well be a millennium away. Like George Lucas's Queen Amidala, most of the SDMI participants won't be content to stand idly by while a committee gathers to debate the issues. Indeed, in the wake of MP3's growing popularity, some of the companies that continue to embrace SDMI publicly are already champing at the bit, and are beginning to market products without any assurance that they will ultimately satisfy the requirements of the new standard. In fact, almost every major consumer-electronics manufacturer plans to have a portable digital audio player on the shelves by Christmas. And even the recording industry itself is submitting to the lure of the market. Universal Records, the nation's largest label, said in May that it would begin the secure digital distribution of its artists in time for the holiday season; Sony Music, in conjunction with Microsoft, announced a similar deal the same month.

Given the current level of technological innovation and commercial activity, it wouldn't be far-fetched to conclude that with every new product announcement, SDMI becomes increasingly irrelevant. The executive director of the SDMI, however, doesn't seem overly concerned. Leonardo Chiariglione—who was, ironically, also the chairman of the Motion Pictures Experts Group, which originally devel-



oped MP3—insists that his initiative will move forward. "At this point, SDMI cannot be too prescriptive," he says. "SDMI is not about imposing a certain technology; it's about defining a framework. So it's not going to say, 'You have to use *this* technology here and *that* technology there.'"

Universal and Sony's decisions to break ranks do at least suggest that one of Chiariglione's most cherished goals may be compromised. "If we were to allow the creation of many technological niches," he concedes, "that would mean the failure of SDMI. We will only be

successful if we create a big market where you can listen to whatever music you want, from whatever source, on whatever device you own."

But Chiariglione insists that cooperation, and not cutthroat competition, still governs SDMI's participants. As proof, he points to the group's recent agreement on specifications for portable players, which he claims guarantees that secure and interoperable SDMI devices will be in the shops by Christmas. Industry pundits predict that more than a million will be sold by the end of December—a figure that certainly would increase the demand for legal music on the Web and, in turn, reduce the incentives for piracy. Chiariglione does allow, though, that no matter what technological innovations are implemented, the unauthorized distribution of

music will continue at some level, because adolescents will always derive cheap thrills out of breaking the rules. "Gaming," he declares, "is in the nature of man."

Frank Creighton, an RIAA senior vice president, can't afford to take such a fatalistic view of human nature. As the director of the association's antipiracy effort, he is responsible for stemming the tide of music theft on the Internet until the SDMI group finishes its work.

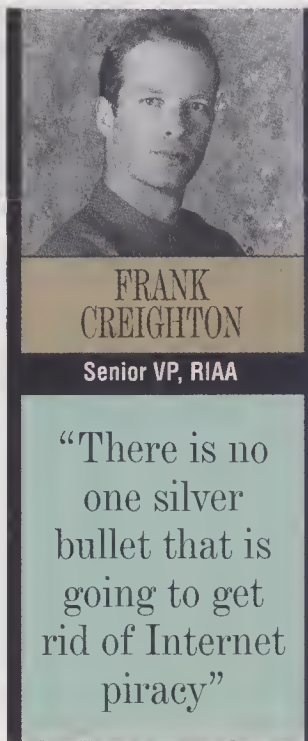
"If you look at piracy in the traditional sense, in terms of physical goods being sold on the street, we are looking at losses of a million dollars a day in the U.S. alone," Creighton says. "Clearly, when you look at the speed and efficiency with which one can send files around the world with the click of a mouse button, the potential losses are exponential.

"Right now," he adds, "it is difficult to put your finger on what the actual revenue lost is. The technology is not in place to get a good assessment, but we are currently looking at doing that."

Creighton, like other intellectual-property enforcers, surely has his work cut out for him. But despite the vastness of cyberspace, he says, policing the Net is not impossible: "Because the Internet is very

user-friendly, our ability to find these illegal sites is a lot easier than in the traditional sense of having to do surveillance on a counterfeit-cassette manufacturing facility somewhere in the South Bronx."

To aid in its efforts, the RIAA employs a team of Net specialists who do nothing but surf the Web and review how its members' music is being distributed. The enforcement staff also uses an automated Web crawler. Capable of operating 24 hours a day, the crawler has proved particularly useful for identifying those pirate sites that are online only between 2 and 4 in the



Not Dead Yet

Though MP3 may not be the format of the future, we have to live in the present—at least for now **BY BRYAN VAN DYKE**

In spite of the seismic shifts in the record industry, MP3 is still the 500-pound gorilla of online music formats. Exhibit A for this argument, of course, is the vaunted RealJukebox, which plays both MP3s and traditional CDs and has full recording capability in all formats. Released in early May by RealNetworks [www.real.com], RealJukebox reached the 1 million download plateau in just 10 days, becoming the fastest-starting piece of software ever. Here are some other sites.

THE BEST

MP3.com

www.mp3.com

Once you dedicate your ears to legal MP3 recordings, you'll want to head for a music megalopolis such as MP3.com. The volume of material here is enough to make you consider mothballing your Discman. MP3.com offers 27 million free MP3 downloads. Luckily, the selection is broken down by genre, and there's a handy Top 40 list of the most popular music. MP3.com also delivers scads of demoware, shareware, and freeware programs for playing MP3—not to mention plug-ins, sound editors, and other gear. Ice-T's latest single came out here first, but don't expect loads of familiar names. Most of the selections available in the rock and pop category, for example, hail from the subterranean levels of music obscurity.

MP3now

www.mp3now.com

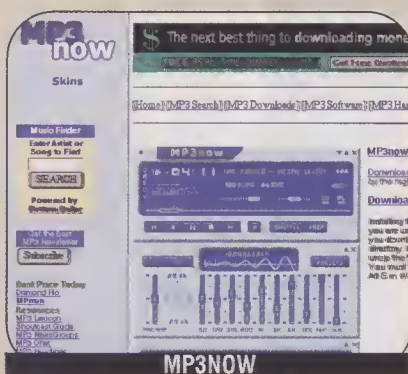
Now hear this: MP3now really is the ultimate MP3 resource. MP3 neophytes can find enlightenment with the Beginner's Guide. More-savvy users can pick through a comprehensive list of MP3 utilities or communicate with others on the site's newsgroups and chats. No matter what your level of familiarity with digital music technology, you can use MP3now's Music Finder to locate songs by specific artists.

Audiohighway.com

www.audiohighway.com/mp3/index_mp3.html

For an all-purpose MP3 destination, visit Audiohighway.com, where you can enjoy a full range of music genres. But it's the nonmusical MP3 resources that separate this site from your

average MP3 cul-de-sacs: Audiohighway.com offers such unusual features as old-time mystery-radio broadcasts and comedy shows (when we checked, they were running an early George Carlin recording). Get audio books, too.



THE REST

EMusic.com

www.emusic.com

Lots of MP3 sites let you listen, for free, to tracks by commercial bands; unfortunately, those sites are usually swindling the artists out of their well-earned pennies. The good word on EMusic.com (formerly Goodnoise.com) is that everything you find here is legit, so you can listen to new tracks by Frank Black, Gene Loves Jezebel, or They Might Be Giants—both cash-free and guilt-free. EMusic.com offers tracks for purchase, too; most of the songs cost 99 cents each.

Lycos MP3 Search

mp3.lycos.com

Play fetch with Lycos's MP3 search engine

and it will retrieve your request from an index of 500,000 MP3s. Bear in mind that copyright laws apply to some of what the search engine churns up.

AMP3 Dot Com

amp3.com

"Free music and free software!" is the battle cry at AMP3.com, and the melee includes wonderfully offbeat music selections, ranging from Broadway show tunes to bayou-romp-ing zydeco.

MP3critic.com

mp3critic.com

After picking through tons of tracks by unsigned bands, you learn quickly that there are a few nuggets of MP3 gold—and a mother lode of garbage. To help you mine the best, MP3critic reviews independent, Internet-only artists. Every three days, the site adds a new review. At press time there were fewer than 75 reviews, but anyone can contribute, and this resource seems bound for growth.

Audiogalaxy

www.audiogalaxy.com

Musicians can get 25 free megs of space at Audiogalaxy. Nonmusicians can enjoy a constellation of MP3s from the music industry's rising stars.

The MP3 Music Webring

www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=mp3&list

If you beachcomb the Net, eventually you'll turn up a Web site run by someone whose tastes match your own. The MP3 Music Webring lets you sift through more than 200 sites one after the other, in pursuit of that MP3 diamond amid the roughs.

Scour.Net: Downloadable Music

scour.net/Downloadable_Music

Along with its dedicated audio, video, and image search engine, Scour.Net operates an MP3 search engine that gathers results from most of the major legal downloadable music sites. But its software doesn't allow for very restrictive searches, so result sets can be too broad.

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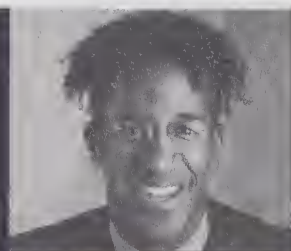
The actual scope of the RIAA's enforcement efforts is unclear. "We are not in a position to divulge how big the army is," Creighton says. The severity of the legal remedies available to the recording industry, however, is a matter of public record: The civil penalties for the willful unauthorized reproduction of sound recordings can amount to \$100,000 *per violation* (that is, per sound recording copied); the criminal penalties are up to five years in jail and/or up to \$250,000 in fines. Given the harshness of the retribution, it's not too surprising

that the cease-and-desist letters Creighton's staff sends to offending sites are usually sufficient inducement for them to shut down. He says his staff sends thousands of such letters each year.

Creighton points with particular pride to the RIAA's success on college campuses. "There hasn't been one university site that we have come across and sent a letter to that has remained up, or where we have not received cooperation from the universities," he says. In 1997, 60 percent of the pirate sites that RIAA staffers discovered were on university servers; a year later, that portion was down to 40 percent.

Still, Mark Hardie is less than impressed. A senior analyst at Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Forrester Research, which studies high-tech markets, Hardie says the claim of widespread MP3 piracy is exaggerated. "It happens on such a small scale that I would argue that the pirate losses to MP3 are virtually nonexistent," he says. "And it baffles me that the industry would hang on to this issue for so long without having done any hard-core research."

Hardie continues: "Our estimate was that losses were less than a million dollars. It was ridiculously small, to the point where it was meaningless, because the industry loses more to people who are steal-



MARK
HARDIE

Sr. Analyst, Forrester Research

"It baffles me that the industry would hang on to this issue...without having done any hard-core research"

ing music when they walk into a store, or to employees who take music when they leave at the end of their shift." Hardie's point is underscored by the fact that despite the RIAA's massive enforcement effort, the association so far has not seen fit to bring criminal charges against the owner of an offending site, and in two years has felt sufficiently threatened to bring civil suits against only five Web pirates.

Creighton, for his part, counters that SDMI is not specifically directed at MP3, adding: "MP3 is simply a compression format. And the reason it has gotten so much attention from RIAA is because, being interoperable, open, and having no

security measures in place, it is the format that is being used out there for downloading these unauthorized files."

Moreover, if piracy is such a negligible problem, why do most industry insiders—Creighton's statement notwithstanding—assert that SDMI *was* inspired by the growing popularity of MP3?

"Well," Hardie says, "MP3 is not in itself a threat to the music business. The threat to the music businesses is the arrival of a consumer distribution channel that the music industry does not control."

Michael Robertson, the founder and chairman of MP3.com [www.mp3.com], one of the major distribution points for MP3 files on the Web, couldn't agree more. "The RIAA says the issue is piracy, but that is not true," Robertson argues. "The major record labels are major because they

control the distribution pipes. That is what enables the record labels to extract such a high price from artists and make a lot of profits. The Internet changes the rules and allows everyone to participate on a level playing field, and that threatens the majors' core business."

On the subject of SDMI, Robertson is even more pugnacious: "It's a scam. They would love some technological solution which they can control." He points out that the qualifications for SDMI membership specifically exclude participation by artists and consumers. "You can bet an artist is not going to be able to use SDMI on their own Web site," Robertson asserts. "There is inevitably going to be technology you are going to have to license and buy, and crazy hoops you are going to have to jump through to be part of it."

Robertson says that MP3.com has refused to be part of the SDMI process because, from the beginning, it was a given that MP3 would be excluded from the specification. "The labels say they initiated SDMI to protect their artists, and that is simply not true," he says. "Artists traditionally get a very small slice of CD sales, and they don't own any of their master recordings; the record label does. That's a really high price for an artist to pay to have a shot at making it." He is

quick to point out that the 11,000 artists who distribute their music through his site—with an average of 125 more signing up every day—get nonexclusive contracts. They can leave at any time, they retain ownership of their master recordings, and they get 50 percent of the proceeds from any CD sold.

As good as that might sound, MP3 is still an unprotected format—a point Robertson concedes. "Any technology can be used by bad guys, and with digital efficiency, music can be pirated to a lot of people," he says. "But to properly measure that threat, you have to assess the benefits versus the

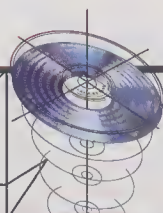


MICHAEL
ROBERTSON

Founder, MP3.com

"The Internet changes the rules and allows everyone to participate on a level playing field"

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I'M WITH THE BANDWIDTH

By Pamela Des Barres

For the empress of rock groupies, a checkered past could have meant big bucks in the online collectibles market

Ah, if only I had known 30 years ago that the tidbits and castoffs tossed to me by my rock-star pals would wind up fetching gigantic bucks. I might have held on to Mick's cut-velvet *Performance* rags and Keith Moon's splintered drumsticks. Lord knows

Jimmy Page's Led Zep set list could probably pay my electric bills for a year, not to mention the test pressing for Zeppelin's second album, which I sold for 50 bucks, along with some Plant lyrics written on the sleeve. (Hey, it was a long time ago, and I needed the money!) Alas, I was just living my life, unaware that those scribbles and trinkets would one

day become sacred relics. Rock-and-roll collectibles, for God's sake.

Actually, I collect all manner of doo-dads myself: porcelain wall birds with grinning beaks, chalkware Jesuses with exposed dripping hearts, elegant reverse paintings on glass from the 1930s, California Cleminson kitchen pottery, glow-in-the-dark Disney pictures. And

plenty of James Dean crap. Most people may think of James Dean as an actor, but as far as I'm concerned, he's the first rock-and-roll rebel. And the incredible online auction sites have only made it easier and more thrilling to accumulate such treasured objects.

It's addictive. Days go by as I gaze cross-eyed at all manner of colorful knickknacks from around the globe. Just recently on eBay [www.ebay.com], I purchased some never-before-seen photos of James Dean from the movie *Giant* for \$113.50, along with an \$11 pewter necklace depicting his profile from *Photoplay* magazine, circa 1956.

I was going through my old diaries last night, and came across a love note from Jimmy Page and a tattered telegram from the Zappas, when curiosity claimed me. I decided to find out what manner of rock collectibles was offered online, and what they were going for. Astonished at the copious quantity of items, I stayed awake until the invisible cock crowed, getting wicked eyestrain, as row upon row of rock schlock lit up my screen. An Insane Clown Posse hockey jersey just went for \$230. Keith Richards's guitar pick fetched close to \$40. Gene Simmons's KISS mask and costume brought \$105. Hmm...I wonder what his annual Christmas cards are worth? (Just kidding, Gene.)

Although I'm an eBay hound, I checked out **First Auction** [www.firstauction.com] because of its T.J. Martell Foundation StarBid '99 charity, featuring items donated by B.B. King, Willie Nelson, and Backstreet Boys, among others. But it was too early even to take a gander. And since I got hype in the mail from **Amazon.com Auctions** [auctions.amazon.com], I scrutinized the encouraging array of rock goodies available there—from a \$7 Nine Inch Nails promo condom to a stunning Warhol *James Dean* with 115 bids on it, the highest for more than \$80,000.

I perused a half-dozen auction sites, but none can hold a candle in the wind to eBay when it comes to quality and quantity. Just head for the Collectibles category, and straight down the bright blue list to Memorabilia, and then to Rock-n-Roll, where another row of possibilities awaits.

The Grateful Dead. KISS. Michael Jackson. As you might expect, the Beatles and Elvis are the most heavily featured. Uh-oh. A danger zone for me. My first record was *Jailhouse Rock* backed with *Treat Me Nice*. I never got over it. The Fab Four? Please. I spent all my allowance sending Paul McCartney a sappy love poem every single day for a solid year. And I still have my rubber Remco Paul doll. Truth be told, I am rich with Beatlebilis.

The eBay category Elvis Belongings



Clicking for collectibles: Chet Baker's *Swinging Soundtrack*, Duane Eddy's *Duane Does Dylan*, and a James Dean medallion necklace.


intrigued me, and in a click I beheld the King's very own macramé belt, one he wrapped around his abundant waistline in 1971. The historical piece of Presleyana had one bid of \$6,500, but even that did not measure up to the minimum allowable. Yikes! Hey, what about this Elvis microphone—complete with a scratch that's "well-known to Elvis's friends"—for \$500? That sounds like a better deal to me. Here's one of the original 12 TCB gold necklaces. It starts at \$5,500. It once belonged to musician Billy Burnette. How did he let this prize out of his hands?

There were 601 listings under the Led Zeppelin category, mostly promotional items, posters, and bootleg albums. There also was a rare, mid-'70s unused concert ticket from Tokyo. The first Zeppelin

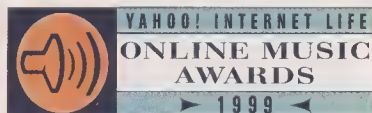
album, signed by all four members, is up for grabs at \$379—a steal, if you ask me. In fact, I'm surprised that some of this stuff is so reasonable. Rolling Stones collectibles are even cheaper. A gorgeous signed color photo of Mick Jagger going, going, gone for a piddling 58 bucks! Charlie Watts's actual drumstick for \$11.85! And no bids at all on a Stones-signed Telecaster guitar. I guess it pays to break up—or die. Jimi Hendrix's autograph on an airline-ticket stub is up to \$450. Buddy Holly's signature is going for \$350. All four Beatles signed a photo from *Help*, and the very first bid was \$1,285. And there were 13 feverish bids for John

Lennon's scrawl on a backstage pass, with three days and eight hours still to go before the auction ended. That night long ago, when Keith Moon introduced me to the intelligent Beatle, he had a Kotex on his head. I should have asked him to sign it for me.

Poring over all the rock-and-rollness really took me back, especially when I came across several items that I once had—or still do have—in my possession. The Remco Paul doll I paid 89 cents for in 1964 was selling for a little more than \$100. The Beatles notebook with Paul's cigarette airbrushed from his hand, which I got for 50 cents at my local Woolworth's, had appreciated by \$99. And I discovered that even *I* am a collectible: A poster from Frank Zappa's 1971 film *200 Motels*—which features a comical painting of me (with added mammary proportions) being mauled by Jimmy Carl Black—was up to 11 bids and counting.

I just had to bid on a few things. A 1956 wailing Elvis celluloid mirror. Chet Baker's *Swinging Soundtrack* from a James Dean documentary I didn't know existed. And something any discerning music fan shouldn't be without: a *Duane Does Dylan* Duane Eddy LP from '65. The mind boggles. 

Des Barres, whose offstage partying with Jagger, Page, and Moon was recounted in 1987's I'm With the Band, is also the author of Take Another Little Piece of My Heart and Rock Bottom.



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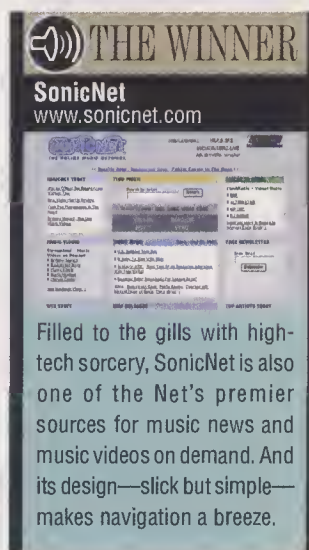
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The 1999 Online Music Awards



A year ago, the music industry was warming up. But this was the year that music really broke on the Web. With the rise of MP3 and the fall of the old guard, the Net is dictating the future of music. And these sites—the nominees and winners of the 1999 *Yahoo! Internet Life* Online Music Awards—are dictating the future of online music.

Best Music Hub Sites



Filled to the gills with high-tech sorcery, SonicNet is also one of the Net's premier sources for music news and music videos on demand. And its design—slick but simple—makes navigation a breeze.

Rocktropolis

www.rocktropolis.com
Run by online music retailer CDnow (as the copious ads remind you), Rocktropolis has news, reviews, and additional consumer-oriented features, such as buying guides.

Wall of Sound

wallofsound.go.com
Part of the sprawling Go network, Wall of Sound excels at news and features, and adds a complement of record reviews and charts.

Yahoo! Music

rock.yahoo.com
Some sites opt for bells and whistles. Yahoo!'s music headquarters keeps it simple, with news, record reviews, and links to sites across the Web.

MSN Entertainment

musiccentral.msn.com/music/music.asp

Once you get past the MSN logo, you'll find news, interviews, and, best of all, a guide to Web-based music performances and previews.

Best Official Artist Sites



THE WINNER
Beastie Boys
www.beastieboys.com

Set up like an intergalactic space station, the Beasties' site offers mad rhymes, videos, and a link to the Milarepa Fund, a nonprofit organization that advocates nonviolence.

Tori Amos

www.tori.com

Amos is all about feelings, so it's no surprise that her site—which offers music videos, a discography, and personalized video responses to your e-mail—delights the senses.

David Bowie

www.davidbowie.com

If the man could, he would digitize himself. Well, he can, and has—for the video game Omikron: The Nomad Soul. Until the game's October release, plug into his site, where you'll find Net-only music, song-writing contests, original artwork, and info about his boutique ISP.

Marilyn Manson

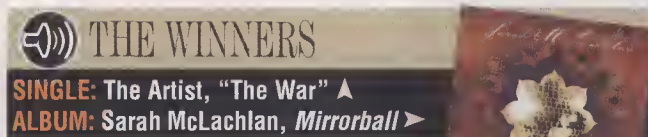
www.marilynmanson.net

"This will be the only place," promises Manson, "where we can communicate unfiltered and find what only we can call the truth." In other words, you'll find chat rooms, song lyrics, and plenty of flashy Shockwave.



STEVEN PARKER

Best Net Single & Best Net Album



THE WINNERS
SINGLE: The Artist, "The War" ▲
ALBUM: Sarah McLachlan, *Mirrorball* ►

As renowned for his prolific creativity as he is for his orthographic idiosyncrasy, The Artist used the Web to distribute "The War," a loose-limbed 20-minute-plus jam that was available for download through his official site last year. And Sarah McLachlan added the glow of online commerce to her reflective pop by distributing the live LP *Mirrorball* through an exclusive deal with Amazon.com.

Public Enemy

www.public-enemy.com

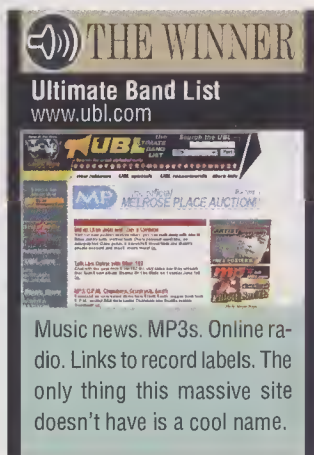
On Public Enemy's official site, group mastermind Chuck D offers commentary, exclusive Web tracks, concert footage, and free P.E.-mail. "Yo! Baud Rush the Show?"

The Artist Formerly Known as Prince

www.love4oneanother.com

When The Artist invited his various online fan clubs to become part of his official site, most were delirious. The result is this frequently updated, multimedia-rich site, which reflects The Artist's increasingly benign philosophy.

Best Reference Sites



THE WINNER
Ultimate Band List
www.ubl.com

Music news. MP3s. Online radio. Links to record labels. The only thing this massive site doesn't have is a cool name.

All-Music Guide

www.allmusic.com

One of the world's largest music-reference books is also online, with artist bios, record reviews, and even a daily music-news update.

IUMA: Internet Underground Music Archive

www.iuma.com

A radar dish for the stuff that flies under the radar, this site catalogs unknown bands that are making music online.

International Lyrics Server

www.lyrics.ch/index.htm

Mired in ongoing legal troubles, the site recently joined with Songfile.com to preserve its massive collection of pop-song lyrics.

RollingStone.com: Artists A to Z

www.rollingstone.com

All your favorite artists are here, from ABBA to ZZ Top and everything in the middle (for example, Bette Midler). Click on a name to get bios, discographies, and more.

Best Label Sites



THE WINNER
Virgin Records America
www.virginrecords.com

Lenny Kravitz and the Chemical Brothers are among the artists who profit from Virgin's expansive online vision, which includes exclusive tracks and state-of-the-art design.

Capitol Records

www.hollywoodandvine.com

First, listen to music and watch videos in such categories as I Thee Web (love songs) and Booty Smackers (hits of the '70s). Then,

sign up for an e-mail newsletter for any of the label's hundred-plus artists.

Geffen Records

www.geffen.com

A virtual diving board into the pool of modern rock, this site offers links to David Geffen's other labels (including DreamWorks) and a top-10 list of most-visited artist pages, including White Zombie, Hole, Nirvana, Aerosmith, and Beck.

Grand Royal Records

www.grandroyal.com

In addition to label founders and hip-hop powerhouses the Beastie Boys, Grand Royal's artists include Sean Lennon, Australian popster Ben Lee, and "Japanese punk savants" Buffalo Daughter. The site also houses fancy band pages and Grand Royal Radio, an in-house Net radio station.

Rykodisc

www.rykodisc.com

Rykodisc has never played it safe. Off-line, the label assembled a diverse roster of new artists and rereleases (Frank Zappa, the Robert Cray Band, and Howie B). Online, Ryko has been among the most aggressive labels in promoting its acts with digital downloads. The label offers 175-plus MP3 tracks from more than 50 artists (for 99 cents each) and has also released music in the Microsoft Media Player format.

Interscope Records

www.interscope.com

With an intricate radar-display home page and plenty of material on the acts you love (Garbage, Ron Sexsmith, Limp Bizkit) or love to hate (Jordan Knight, Bijou Phillips, The Wallflowers), Interscope is one of the most attractive label sites online.

Best News Sites



If you like your news with more graphics than text, then stop here. You'll learn more about Backstreet Boys than you ever wanted to know.

Addicted to Noise

www.addict.com

With one of the Net's best music reporting staffs, Addicted to Noise is the premier online rock news zine. And because it's part of

SonicNet, it links to album reviews and more.

Billboard: Daily Music Update

www.billboard.com/daily

The trade magazine offers daily music news updates, along with links to an archive of the publication's record reviews.

IMusic News Agent

imusic.interserv.com/newsagent/musicnews

There aren't any fancy effects here. In fact, there aren't any graphics at all. But if you want music headlines from around the Net, there aren't many better places.

Spin.com

www.spin.com

The magazine posts much of its print content online. But it's the daily news and reviews that elevate the online version above the pack.

For Those Not About to Rock, We Salute You

Rock and hip-hop may dominate the Net, but other music genres are coming up fast. Here's the best of the rest.

JAZZ

Blue Note Records

www.bluenote.com

The venerable jazz label just turned 60. Flip through the current artist roster and then go back in time via bios and classic album covers.

BLUES

Muddy Waters

www.muddywaters.com

Get acquainted with the original Mannish Boy at this site, which has an extensive bio, sound clips, and articles. The Delta is ready when you are.

COUNTRY

Women of Country

www.womenofcountry.com

From old-guard faves like Loretta Lynn to new stars like Trisha Yearwood, the site has news, charts, contests, chat rooms, and bios.



FDLK

The Harry Smith Archives

www.harrysmitharchives.com

Painter and filmmaker Harry Smith was also a genuine eccentric whose American Anthology of Folk Music created a new canon. This site tells you why you should be wild about Harry.

WORLD

RootsWorld

www.rootsworld.com/rw

Like a good buffet, this site offers a

diverse selection: All the corners of the world are represented, with Webcasts, reviews, and news. There's even a section for bagpipes and accordions.

GOSPEL

The Thomas A. Dorsey Foundation

www.thomasdorsey.com

As Georgia Tom, he was a racy blues pianist. After his religious and musical conversion, he became the father of modern gospel. Get the Truth at this tribute site.

LATIN

LaMusica.com!

LaMusica.com

Find out more about Ricky Martin, Marc Anthony, and Jennifer Lopez at this site. It's so extensive, it even covers Carmen Electra's singing career.

CLASSICAL

ClassicalNet

www.classical.net

Whether you're a true connoisseur of classical music or prefer your tunes Looney, this hefty database has it all.

BIG BAND/SWING

NeoSwing

neoswing.com

Devoted fans of martini cool should stop here for sound clips, tour dates, and QuickTime video.

DANCE

Astralwerks.com

www.astralwerks.com

The home of Fatboy Slim and the Chemical Brothers offers live Webcasts and extensive artist sites.

THE RAP ON MUSIC'S NEW PLAYER

RCA Lyra, the new personal digital audio player, puts a **new hipper** spin on easy listening

Recent strides in digital audio technologies like MP3, which allows a PC to compress, store, and manage near CD quality music from the Internet, are revolutionizing the way we listen to music. And if all that sounds a little too technical, consider these names: The Beastie Boys, Def Leppard and Q-Tip.

What do MP3 and these monsters of rock and rap have in common? Only that without digital audio technology, you wouldn't be able to listen to the Boys' cool new tracks "Negotiation Limerick File (DJ Design Remix)", which they recently sent out onto virtual playlists to raise money for Kosovo relief charities: (<http://www.launch.com>; <http://www.beastieboys.com>). You also might have missed "Vivrant Thing", not to mention, June's new tracks from Def Leppard (Euphoria) and the Red Hot Chili Peppers (Californication) (<http://www.redhotchilipeppers.com> and <http://www.rockuniverse.com/defleppard>). David Bowie even recorded his new "What's Really Happening" on his Web site (<http://www.davidbowie.com>). Even Amazon.com has jumped on the band wagon by featuring over 20 new and unreleased singles from Lyle Lovett, Cheap Trick, and Pavement in its free digital download area.

But how much fun is it to rock out at your computer? Maybe tons if you're paying bills. But if working out while you listen to never-heard-before jams are your idea of a Saturday morning, then you were out of luck, until now, thanks to the new RCA Lyra personal digital player. Brought to you by the same folks who helped trailblaze the MP3 technology, the wallet-size RCA Lyra lets you take new music acts on the road. Just plug it into your computer with a parallel cable (one hour of music time transfers to the Flash Memory in only three minutes, depending upon your computer speed), download the tracks you want to hear, pop in a couple of AA batteries, grab the headphones and you're good to go. The basic model, with a suggested retail price under \$200, stores an hour of music on its 32 Mbyte memory card. Other storage options, like Type I/II (Sandisc CompactFlash cards and IBM's upcoming microDrive, will be able to hold 6-12 hours of music and will be available through RCA Accessories Division for enhanced storage.



RCA LYRA

And for those of you who want a personal soundtrack for rollerblading or walking around town, the tiny CompactFlash card will not skip during playback. For the archivists among you, Real Jukebox music-management software is included, allowing you to store your CD collection on your PC. From there, you can create a custom playlist, mixing tunes downloaded from the Internet with those from your favorite CDs. An easy-to-read blue LCD readout details track, title, artist and time.

Other cool add-ons available from the RCA Accessories Division include fast USB connectors for PC remote terminals that can be used with portable or desktop PCs. Car cassette adapters are also available so you can listen to the RCA Lyra on road trips.

For more information, check out the RCA Lyra website at <http://www.lyrazone.com> – and then check up on your favorite bands to hear what's playing at a URL near you.

((QUICK HIT))

NOWADAYS, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH every Internet company with a dollar and a URL is going public within a matter of weeks and raking in big bucks. Recently, we at *Yahoo! Internet Life* caught wind of the world's first 24-hour initial public offering, evidence of which has been archived on the chat boards at a certain financial site.

The Short, Happy Life of Mayfly.com

By Bob Strauss

Subject: Hot Internet Play
Date: 31 Aug 1999 07:05 AM
From: BigBlueBear

Anyone familiar with Mayfly.com? They provide cache RAM server solutions for e-commerce fulfillment interfaces on the Web. Just called up their site and it looks very professional, lots of colors and everything. Hints of an IPO sometime soon. Comments?

Subject: Re: Hot Internet Play
Date: 31 Aug 1999 07:31 AM
From: MilesStandish

I know these guys—they work out of my sister-in-law's spare bedroom in Fresno. She says their financials are solid and they have partnership deals going with some very big Web players she couldn't name because the baby was getting all fussy. This is one to watch.

Subject: Whither Mayfly?
Date: 31 Aug 1999 09:37 AM
From: WitchyTaiToe

OK, guys—I found out why Mayfly's site has been down for the past 2 hours. They're in the SEC-mandated silent period before the IPO. Here's the deal: The offering will be made at 12 noon sharp, the price is pegged at \$15 a share, and the guy down the hall from me virtually guarantees a tenfold return. You can buy in via e-mail, but I'd upgrade my modem connection, if you know what I mean.

Subject: The Next Amazon?
Date: 31 Aug 1999 11:12 AM
From: MyWifeWillKillMe

Just caught a spot on the Drudge Report saying Mayfly will be leveraging its virtual-mall concept into a full-service online ATM that will

actually PRINT MONEY (!!!) on compatible inkjets! Empty your kids' college funds, it's gonna be a wild ride!

Subject: My Retirement Dreams Have Come True
Date: 31 Aug 1999 12:30 PM

From: BigBlueBear
Unbelievable—a 500% gain in half an hour!!! But don't cash out yet—I'm staying in for the long haul, at least till tomorrow AM!!!

Subject: Mine, Too!!!
Date: 31 Aug 1999 12:45 PM
From: MilesStandish
\$750 a share!!! Mayfly's market valuation now exceeds Coca-Cola's!!!

Subject: \$1,000 F***ING DOLLARS A SHARE!!!
YAHAAHAHAHA!!!!!!!
Date: 31 Aug 1999 1:02 PM
From: MyWifeWillKillMe
SNORK! FIBBLE! ZOOT! WHEEEEEEEEE!!!!

Subject: Just a Slight Glitch
Date: 31 Aug 1999 2:20 PM
From: KnowItAll

OK, so trading plutonium online is technically a no-no with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. But look, guys, that's only a small part of what Mayfly.com is about. I'm sure the stock will rebound from \$200 once investors fully realize all the value this company has to offer.

Subject: More Bad News
Date: 31 Aug 1999 3:17 PM
From: MilesStandish

Just talked to my sister-in-law, and it looks like the Mayfly guys accidentally locked themselves out of the house when they went to get the paper. I'd take a hedge position on this one and sell off half your shares at \$50 until the Spiffy Key guy shows up.

Subject: More Bad News: Addendum
Date: 31 Aug 1999 3:18 PM
From: MilesStandish

Oh, yeah, I forgot to mention, an informal audit by my sister-in-law's housekeeper shows that not only is Mayfly.com not Y2K-compliant, but the guys who run it were under the impression that Y2K meant "Yes to ketamine!" Do with this information what you will.

Subject: SELL! SELL! SELL!
Date: 31 Aug 1999 3:19 PM
From: BigBlueBear

The day of reckoning is at hand! For I have seen a pale rider, and he sits upon a pale horse...

Subject: AAAAAAARRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHHH
Date: 31 Aug 1999 3:22 PM
From: MyWifeWillKillMe
(no message appended)

Subject: Delisting Notification
Date: 31 Aug 1999 4:00 PM
From: BoardOperator

Due to Mayfly.com's recent bankruptcy filing, this stock will no longer be listed with our service. Thank you for your patronage.

Subject: Hot Internet Play
Date: 31 Aug 1999 5:22 PM
From: WitchyTaiToe

OK, here's another one for you. Outfit called Diphtheria Internet Solutions, markets germ-warfare antitoxins over the Web. I just talked with my dentist, and he guarantees...



ILLUSTRATION: ELVIS SWIFT



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get with it

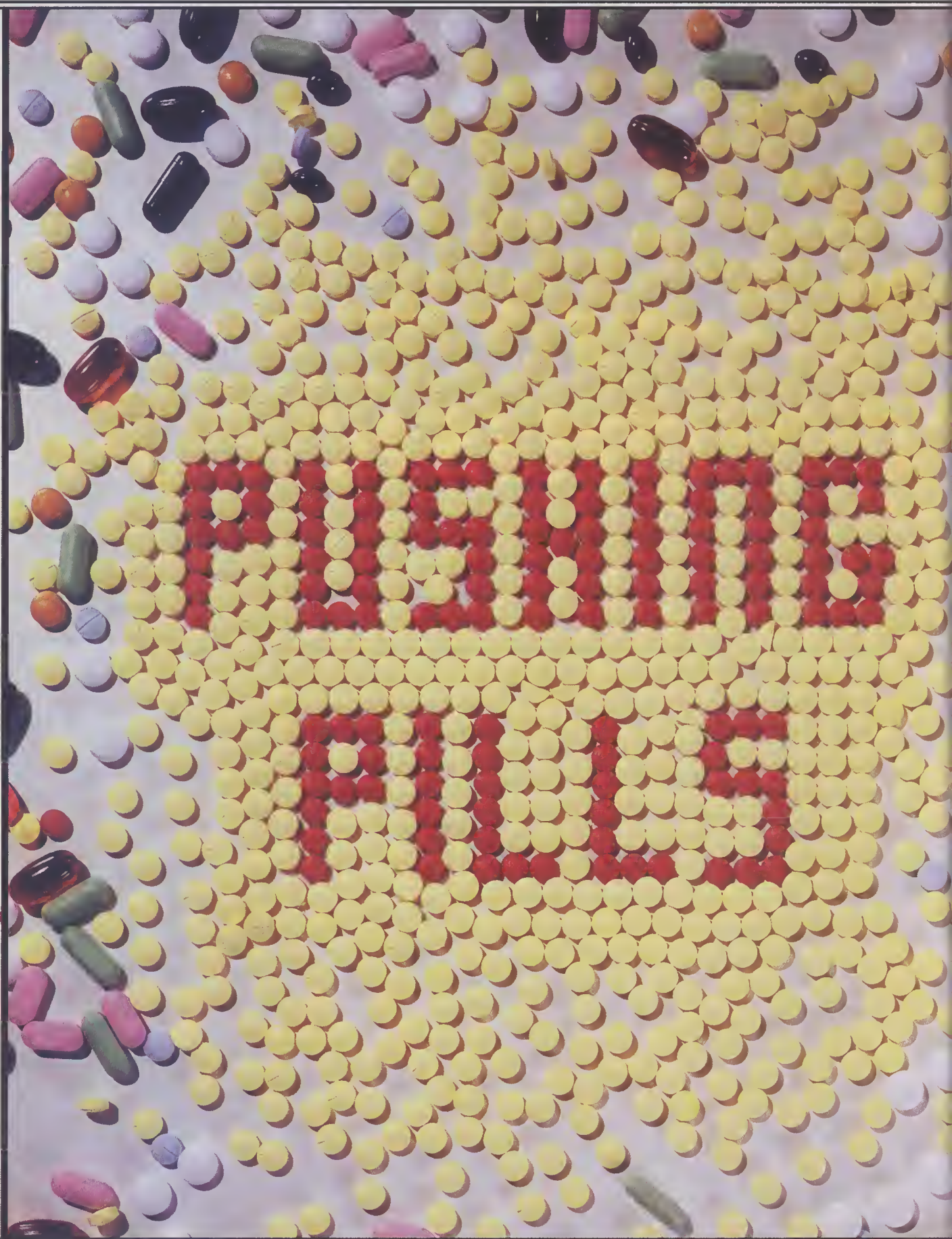




PHOTO: TAKA

The pharmacy used to be the little shop on the corner. Then it was the big store down the street. Now it's the huge store on your computer. What will the birth of online drugstores mean for you, the consumer?

MY SISTER ANNA COULD TELL YOU a lot about the people in her town. Such as who wants to have a baby and who doesn't. Which men are using Viagra and which women are on Prozac. Anna doesn't gossip, and she would never share this information. But as a pharmacy technician at a big chain drugstore, she knows the medical secrets of virtually the entire community.

Until recently, anyone who needed medicine had to go through people like Anna and her colleagues. No longer. These days, thanks to the booming online pharmacy business, ordinary citizens can get their prescriptions filled from the comfort of their own home. The advantages of this for the consumer, in terms of privacy and convenience, are undeniable. But the apparent demand has created problems as well. Alongside the many legitimate businesses moving onto the Web, there has been a proliferation of fly-by-night and black-market sites—leaving some people wondering whether the cure might not be worse than the disease.

"There are a lot of fraudulent products," warns Cynthia Culmo, the director of the Drugs and Medical Devices division of the Texas Department of Health. "The Internet obviously is not very well regulated, and nobody's making sure these are fine and upstanding people who are offering these services."

As with everything on the Web, the history of online drug sales doesn't reach far back. In late 1997, **Drug Emporium** [www.drugemporium.com] launched what it claims was the first Internet pharmacy. Not long after that, at least two other traditional pharmacy chains, **CVS** [www.cvs.com] and **Walgreens** [www.walgreens.com],

began offering refills via the Net.

This year, however, online pharmacies became the ground zero of e-commerce, with a host of "dot-com" businesses sprouting up to fight for a share of the \$102 billion-a-year prescription drug market. Among these well-funded start-ups are **Drugstore.com** [www.drugstore.com], which is partly owned by Amazon.com; **PlanetRx.com** [www.planetrx.com], which is backed by major venture-capital funds; and **Soma.com** [www.soma.com], which

CVS acquired in May. These competitors will soon be joined by **HomePharmacy** [www.homepharmacy.com], **Rx.com** [www.rx.com], and other purveyors.

Of course, no harried parent will use an online pharmacy to cope with the late-night ear infection of a squalling infant. But that doesn't bother the companies' executives, who say their sites are designed for people who don't need medication immediately and will, instead, appreciate the convenience. The execs are betting that consumers will leap at the chance to avoid long lines while purchasing the drugs they need—and maybe pick up some Huggies or Trojans in the process.

For the most part, buying prescription drugs online from one of the licensed vendors is simple, if tedious. You choose a site and create an account by entering such information as your medical history, your doctor's phone number and address, your insurance coverage, your prescription details, your credit card number, and the shipping method you prefer. Then you must send in the prescription by fax or mail, ask the site to confirm the order with your doctor, or have your doctor call the site. Your medication is shipped after the prescription is confirmed.

"We can fill 50,000 prescriptions per day,"

WRITTEN BY DEBORAH BRANSCUM

Tyrannosaurus Rx

Sizing Up the Net's Biggest Drugstores

ONLINE PHARMACIES claim to be safe, inexpensive, convenient, and responsive. Are they?

We evaluated three sites by comparing prices for best-selling prescription drugs and for drugstore staples; by filling a prescription; and by sending questions to pharmacists. We also tested to see how vigilant the sites are about warning of possibly harmful interactions. With the help of drug expert Teresa Graedon [www.peoplespharmacy.com] and physicians Rick Sandor and Nicholas Bolognini, we obtained prescriptions for Propulsid (a heartburn treatment) and Sporanox (an antifungal medication), a potentially deadly combination, and submitted them to two online pharmacies. Both Drugstore.com and PlanetRx promptly called our doctors to alert them to the problem. (At press time, Soma.com wasn't licensed in California, and so our California-based prescriptions could not be tested there.)

Here's what else we learned.

Drugstore.com

Industry analysts expect this company, founded and headed by an 11-year veteran of Microsoft, to compete aggressively for business.

BENEFITS: The patient profile lets you authorize substitution of generic drugs in a prescription. Brand and product-type choosers help you comparison-shop. One-click shopping isn't one-click, but it allows for speedy ordering. Prices were usually the lowest, and our prescription record was easy to access. A pharmacist responded appropriately to our question within 24 hours. Supplement listings include new FDA-required packaging info.

THE NITTY-GRITTY: New prescriptions can take five or more days to process. If your prescription gets canceled because Drugstore.com can't reach your doctor, you have to start over again. Silly specials touted several products marked down to \$3.99 from \$4. Overnight shipping is expensive, and the site isn't yet licensed in all 50 U.S. states.



PlanetRx The founders include health professionals who claim they maintain a separation between the editorial staffers who cover health topics for the site, and the sales and marketing folks who position products for sale.

BENEFITS: This site is licensed in all states and offers the best price-comparison feature for prescription drugs. The easy-to-read table lists the brand and chemical name, and tells you if a generic version is available. A pharmacist responded appropriately and in detail to our question within 24 hours. You can get automatic reminders about refills. The My Planet page lets you track your prescriptions and exchange messages with a pharmacist.

THE NITTY-GRITTY: Even after you've established an account, PlanetRx requires you to go through 13 screens to order a new prescription from an additional doctor. You must read messages from the pharmacist on your My Planet page; they aren't sent to you by e-mail.

Soma.com This site was launched in January and purchased in May by

CVS. It's the only site that carries certain Schedule II drugs (carefully controlled because of their high abuse potential).

BENEFITS: This site had the lowest total for our basket of nonprescription goods, though shipping adds to the cost. When providing a medication, Soma.com describes how to take it, what the possible side effects are, interactions to be aware of, and other precautions worth noting. And it won't send you marketing e-mail unless you ask for it while registering.

THE NITTY-GRITTY: This site fails to list the ingredients of the health supplements it sells. Over-the-counter drugs and supplements might interact with other drugs you are taking, so this is an unforgivable lapse. The inventory was small in some categories. The site wasn't yet licensed in all 50 states. No pharmacist had responded to our health question after five days.

—D.B.

says Soma.com founder and chief executive Tom Pigott, who touts his company's largely automated pharmacy functions. "The error rate is one-tenth the error rate of a human pharmacist."

Licensed online pharmacies boast about their privacy, prices, convenience, and expertise. And they do have benefits no conventional drugstore can match. Several sites, for example, offer automatic refill reminders by e-mail, a record of all prescriptions, instant access to health information, details about drug interactions, and shopping lists to speed frequent purchases. Got a question? No problem. Pharmacists are typically available for e-mail consultation (though you may wait as long as several days for a response).

Whether consumers will dump their local drugstore for Drugstore.com or one of the others remains to be seen. But analysts at Forrester Research, an independent firm that analyzes technology markets, foresee a big dustup as more conventional drugstores take to cyberspace. "The Amazon versus Barnes & Noble battle will pale in comparison to this fight," predicts one Forrester report. "We expect a brutal struggle for market share, as players race to lock in relationships before the brick-and-mortar guys arrive."

While the high-profile start-ups duke it out, another brand of entrepreneur is chasing quick bucks by concentrating on sales of such popular drugs as Viagra, Propecia, and Prozac. Many sites that sell Viagra, for instance, ask the buyer only to fill out an online medical questionnaire, which they claim a doctor will review before a drug purchase is allowed; others advertise that no prescription is necessary at all, as they are located outside the U.S. Because individual states regulate pharmacies, it's almost impossible for a consumer to find out easily if a particular site is licensed as a pharmacy and operating in compliance with the law. But it's easy enough for experts to predict what consumers may end up with if they buy from illegal pharmacies: mislabeled, counterfeit, or adulterated drugs that could injure or even kill.

Vivian Jones isn't worried about the risks she may be taking. "The only difference between me and a doctor is six years of school," says the 38-year-old

GRANDMOTHER,
85, FIGHTS OFF
245-POUND
LINEBACKER FOR
ANTIQUUE QUILT.

HOUSEWIFE
PUMMELS
BANKER FOR
18TH CENTURY
FOOTSTOOL.



C.E.O. SMOKED
BY JR. EXECUTIVE
IN CLASH
OVER 1840s
CIGAR CASE.

OHIO CLERK
BATTLES L.A.
BARTENDER
FOR CIVIL
WAR MUSKET.

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software professional, who then laughs. Jones, who asked that her real name not be printed, figures she's as well equipped to treat her rheumatoid arthritis as any M.D.—and for a lot less money. The finances might not have mattered to Jones a year ago, but she was laid off from her job recently and will soon lose all medical benefits. Still, it's not just about the money. Jones says she doesn't want to be dependent on a doctor to get the experimental medical treatment she has learned about from online newsgroups.

"This drug's not dangerous," she argues. "The protocol is public. There's a lot of advice out there for me. I can't hurt myself with it, and I already have a diagnosis." Now all Jones needs is a certain prescription antibiotic, which she has ordered through a black-market Web site that promises to locate the drug at a Mexican pharmacy and then ship it to her home. "Some people need to go to the doctor," she says. "In my situation, I think [buying online this way] is a good match."

Despite her confidence, Jones may be in for a rude surprise. "Even if you get a product labeled 'Viagra,' it might not be Viagra," explains Cynthia Culmo, the Texas health official. "It might be a look-alike." Congressman Ron Klink, a Pennsylvania Democrat, is equally alarmed about the ease of buying drugs without a prescription from shady sites, and he's much more blunt about the potential consequences: "I really think if we don't act very quickly, people will die. It's just that simple."

One concern is that counterfeit drugs just don't work. Another is the danger of assuming a brand-name drug ordered from overseas will be the same as the drug of that name sold in the U.S. The bottom line: You may not know exactly what you're taking.

"There are a lot of unapproved drugs coming in, too," says Culmo. Adds Klink: "Are people getting drugs they should not have? We've had instances of cough syrup sold in Haiti that killed children. Should you get the drug? Is it safe? Is it what you think it is?"

Klink's worries about online drug sales go beyond the immediate health risks surrounding illicit sites, and include questions

that apply to legitimate ones—such as the security of medical histories stored on pharmacy computers. Can online pharmacies sell customer information to one another? To pharmaceutical companies? To other companies?

To find out how many virtual drugstores are in operation, whether doctors are actually involved, and how they handle sensitive medical information, Klink and three representatives on the House Commerce Committee have asked the General

Accounting Office to investigate online pharmacies. Klink says congressional hearings are also likely, but he doesn't want hasty legislation that may create more problems than it solves. Still, he says, "this is quickly becoming the Wild West of the 21st century, where there is a lot of lawlessness taking place. The question is, where is Matt Dillon?"

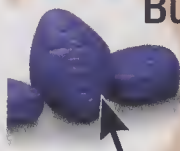
Carmen Catizone doesn't think of himself as a frontier sheriff. But under the circumstances, he may be the next-best thing. A former pharmacist, Catizone serves as executive director of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). And this nonprofit organization, which represents all of the state pharmacy regulatory boards, is working with online pharmacies to craft an Internet seal of approval for the industry. The Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites Program, scheduled to be put into effect this summer, is supposed to inform consumers if an online pharmacy is licensed and follows NABP guidelines on marketing, data security, and other issues. Pharmacies that meet

the criteria would display a special seal on their site, which would link to the NABP for more information. It's a sound program in theory, but it's hardly a slam-dunk.

"We have no authority," concedes Catizone. "It's a completely voluntary process." That means the NABP can't mandate participation. (Similar consumer campaigns, such as those of **The Better Business Bureau** [www.bbb.org] and **TRUSTe** [www.truste.org], have failed to become universal on the Web.)

At this point, no single federal agency has either the authority or the resources to oversee online pharmacies. So what's a consumer to do? Says Culmo simply, "Buyer, beware."

Doing Hard Time Buying Viagra Online



THE DIFFICULT PART OF BUYING THE IMPOTENCE drug Viagra without seeing a doctor isn't finding a Web site that will sell it to you; it's selecting a single site from the enormous list that appears if you search for *buy Viagra*. There are dozens of sites, including

Upagain.com [upagain.com] and **ConfiMed** [meds4men.com]. As a woman, I didn't qualify for a prescription according to the drug's manufacturer, but that wasn't a problem: I used my husband's name and credit card number. Still, I lost confidence in one site after my Web browser warned me that the supposedly secure server used for the purchase wasn't necessarily secure after all. I moved on.

I arrived at **Viagra Cafe** [www.viagracafe.com], where I merely had to agree to a waiver of liability, fill out a medical questionnaire, and enter credit card and shipping information. The next morning, I received a pharmacy bottle with 10 blue pills in the distinctive diamond shape that characterizes Pfizer's Viagra. My 50 mg stash—though probably a bargain compared with what a visit to a urologist and subsequent lab tests would cost—was far from cheap: The consultation (\$75), the pills (\$104.95), and the shipping (\$18) came to nearly 200 bucks.

When I called Quality Med Services, the Carson City, Nevada, company behind Viagra Cafe, a woman there referred me to the owner, who was out of the office. She also told me the doctor listed on my pill bottle was in Texas. I asked for his first name. "I don't know if they'll want all of this published," she replied. "They're pretty low-key."

Quality Med Services may have good reason to be low-key. According to Keith Macdonald, executive secretary of the Nevada State Board of Pharmacies, Quality Med Services is not "a licensed pharmacy or any other medical entity that I can tell." Macdonald said it is illegal in Nevada for an unlicensed business to dispense drugs directly to patients. At press time, the owner of the business was unavailable for comment.

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COMPARE BUSINESS SCHOOLS

Chasing down an MBA? *U.S. News Online's* business school

comparison, one of many graduate-school calculators at the magazine's .edu site, lets you enter up to four b-school names of your choosing. Its database will then report each school's tuition costs and admissions information, as well as student demographics and graduates' career prospects.

This is also your destination for comparing law and medical schools. Now, how about a comparison service for well-educated potential mates?

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/beyond/grad/gradmba.htm

MAP OUT MEALS

How much fat is in that shrimp? The Nutrition Analysis Tool will be happy to tell you. Enter the type and amount of the foods you are eating into the Personal Diet List of this decidedly no-nonsense site, and you'll get back a nutrition-

al analysis tailored for your age and gender. It also suggests other foods you should eat to round out your diet, instead of your stomach. www.ag.uiuc.edu/~food-lab/nat/mainnat.html

AVOID UNSAFE PRODUCTS

Before you buy a new baby carrier or some frozen dinners, check here first. Yes, even food, toys, and child-care products can sometimes be deadly. SafetyAlerts.com's hit list keeps you up on the downsides, before hazardous goods cause a tragedy in your household. This free service will e-mail you the details of the latest toy recalls and food alerts, or you can check the site for recent warnings.

www.safetyalerts.com

just a sea of links without the RealNetworks RealGuide to point you to the best live and archived interviews, film, TV, and music audio/video clips available via the RealPlayer G2 and RealJukebox software (download required). Search by artist name, browse by category (News, Music, Money, and Shopping), peruse highlights, or go straight to the *Star Wars* clips.

realguide.real.com



PICK THE RIGHT PC

Like buying a house or a car, choosing your PC is a seriously tough decision. Reduce the pain in this process with Computer-shopper.com's Decision Guides. Specify how you're going to use your new machine (games, word processing, etc.), and what features are important to you, and the shopping wizard will pick the most appropriate matches for

FIND WEB BROADCASTS

Thousands of Web sites feature streaming multimedia (aka tunes and videos on your PC). But it's



Each month, we gather all the sites we think offer wonderfully practical services

desktop or laptop computers by asking you a series of questions. (*Computer Shopper* is published by Ziff-Davis, *Y-Life's* parent company.)

www.wizard.cshopper.com

FIND AN OPERA

Yes, *Tommy* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* are indeed operas, but perhaps you want to sample something a bit more traditional? Search or browse Operabase's passel of performers,

roles, and works, and find a specific opera on tour anywhere on six continents (not a lot of demand for Puccini in Antarctica, it seems).

operabase.com

NAME YOUR BUSINESS

Like the name "Yahoo!" for your new business venture? Sorry, it's taken. But you can plug the rest of your proposed names into NameStorm and find out if someone is using them. More specifically, this service tells you if the Net domain for a particular name is still open or if it's already reserved in the U.S. Patent

and Trademark Office database (if so, you'll even get a list of alternatives). It's a good way to spend more time making money and less time in a lawyer's office.

www.namestorm.com

SET UP YOUR WEB SITE

These days, all plans for global domination (or at least the sale of your Duncan yo-yo collection) start with a Web site. To determine where to park your pages, go to FindaHost.com. Specify the features you'll need (payment security, FrontPage software support) and the server platform you prefer (if you care about such things) and you'll get back a list of matching plans with pricing and contact info, and other details.

www.findahost.com


VIEW FINE ART

Having trouble distinguishing Monet from Millet? If you can't get to the Louvre to check out these artists' works in person, Artcyclopedia, "The Guide to Museum-Quality Art on the Internet," will help. Search here by artist name and you'll get links to online exhibits featuring that artist's work—from Ansel Adams to Francesco Zugno. If that's not enough, you can also find simi-

lar artists by nationality, medium, or artistic movement, and link to books and posters for sale. Just don't wear that beret in the office; it's a bit pretentious.

artcyclopedia.com

CHOOSE YOUR LAUGHS

You can't stop your friends from e-mailing lame joke-mails, but at Jester you can find the humor that actually makes you laugh. Its intriguing joke-o-meter asks you to rate a series of jokes on a scale ranging from Not Funny to Funny. Jester analyzes your responses, then doles out only the jokes that suit your tastes. Sorry, you'll still have to suffer through your father's "traveling salesman" tales. shadow.ieor.berkeley.edu/humor Send news of your useful finds to useful@zd.com. And be sure to check our picks of the past at www.incrediblyuseful.com. 



DICK LUBIN/PPG

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IBM ThinkPad 600E Notebook 26453AU
Intel® Pentium® II processor, 300MHz, 32MB RAM, 4.0GB HD, 56K modem, 24x-max variable speed CD-ROM, 13.3" TFT active-matrix display, Windows® 98

\$2699 \$89.97/mo.*



Toshiba Satellite 4030CDT Notebook PAS403U-T2CW8
Intel® Celeron™ processor, 300MHz, 64MB SDRAM, 4.3 billion byte HD, 56K V.90 modem, 24x-max variable speed CD-ROM, 13.3" TFT display, Windows® 98

\$1699 \$56.63/mo.*



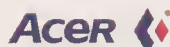
HP Omnibook XE2 Notebook F1723WT
Intel® Celeron™ processor, 300MHz, 32MB RAM, 4.1GB HD, 56K modem, 24x-max variable speed CD-ROM, 12.1" HPA display, Windows® 95/98

\$1499 \$49.97/mo.*



Compaq Prosignia 330 Desktop PC 108157-002
Intel® Pentium® III processor, 450MHz, 64MB RAM (384MB max), 14.4GB HD, 56K V.90 modem, 40x-max variable speed CD-ROM, Windows® 98. Monitor sold separately

\$1649 \$54.97/mo.*



AcerPower 6100 6100-350B
Intel® Pentium® II processor, 350MHz, 32MB RAM (384MB max), 6.4GB HD, 56K modem, 32x-max variable speed CD-ROM, Windows® 98. Monitor sold separately

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Apple iMac Blueberry: M7440LL/A
333MHz PowerPC processor, 32MB RAM (256MB max), 6.0GB HD, K56flex V.90 modem, 24x-max variable speed CD-ROM, Mac OS 8.5, 15" display (13.8"viewable)

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Canon MultiPass C3500 Multifunction H12-1302-US1
Color printer (720 x 360 dpi black or color, 6.5ppm black, 2.5ppm color), fax machine, copier (360 x 360 dpi black, zoom feature), scanner (400 dpi enhanced, 200 dpi optical)

\$299 \$9.97/mo.*



NEC MultiSync A700+ 17" Monitor JC-1739VMW
17" screen (16.0" viewable image size), .28mm dot pitch, 1280 x 1024 max resolution at 66Hz, Invar shadow mask, OptiClear® screen surface

\$299 \$9.97/mo.*



ViewSonic 15" Optiquest Monitor Q51
15" screen (13.7" viewable image size), .28mm dot pitch, 1024 x 768 max resolution at 67Hz, Invar shadow mask, plug-&-play support

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((RADIO)DAZE

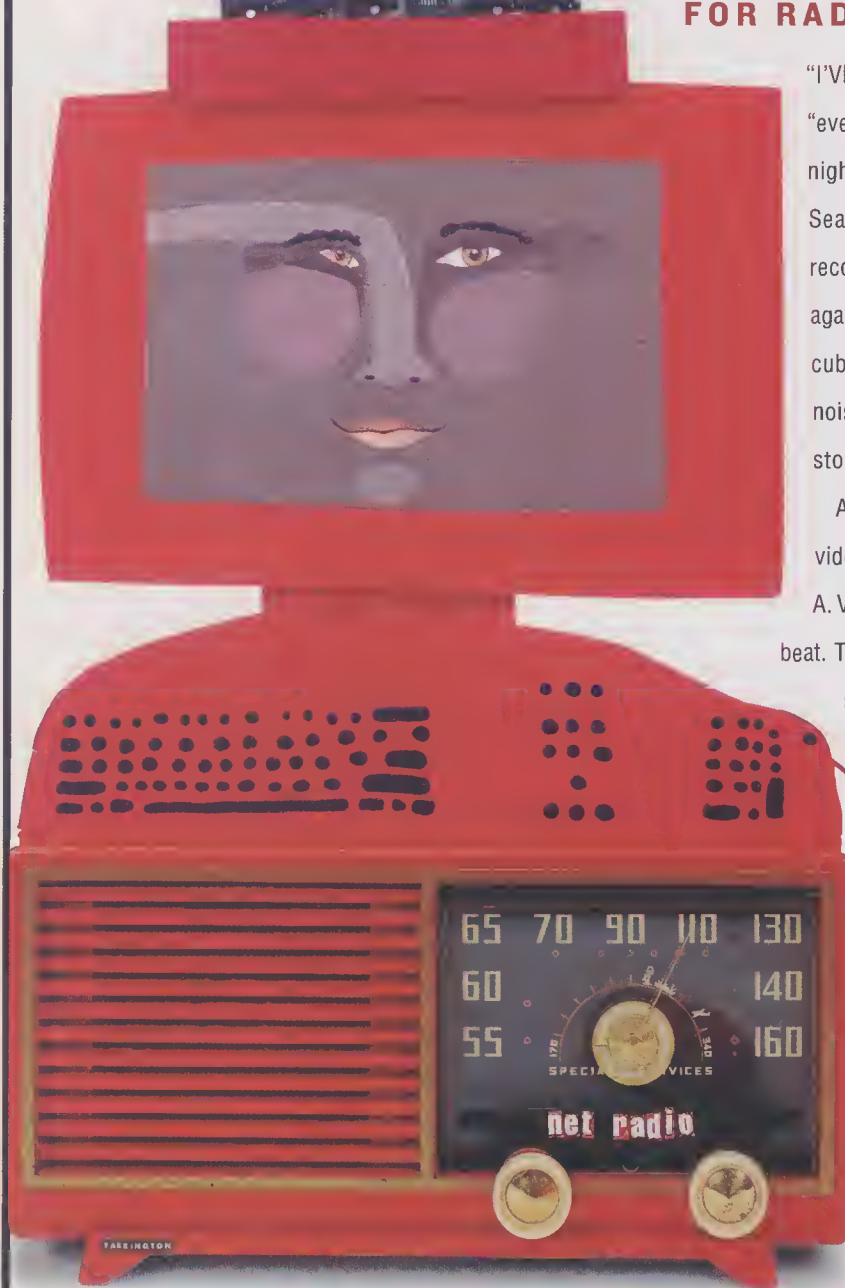
BY DAVID KUSHNER

ARE SURFERS USING THE NET FOR RADIO? WITH FREQUENCY

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN RHYMIN'," says Black Rob, "ever since I was a kid." It's late on a Wednesday night in New York City, and the rapper, an artist on Sean "Puffy" Combs's Bad Boy Entertainment record label, is making the promo rounds once again. Tonight, he's sitting on a camouflage-draped cube in a broadcast studio six floors above the noisy streets, bobbing his head as he tells his life story to a young woman known as DJ Mecca.

A cameraman circles the two, shooting digital video of the interview. In an adjoining studio, DJ A. Vee works a turntable, scratching a background beat. The music pumps through the speakers of the surrounding loft, where a guy in a floppy zebra-striped hat break-dances through a crowd of hip-hop fans and music biz schmoozers. Tonight's broadcast of *88 Hip-Hop* seems like just another radio-show party, except for one big difference: It isn't going over the airwaves; it's traveling through the wires. Net radio—live and prerecorded shows broadcast globally over the Internet—is not just for amateurs

ILLUSTRATIONS: SUSAN FARRINGTON



anymore. High-tech and highly produced programs such as *88 Hip-Hop*, a weekly show on the **Pseudo** online network, have been pioneering a new standard in online entertainment: rich, interactive, multimedia programming designed specifically for the Net.

Less than five years ago, Net radio was a novelty: choppy, audio-only simulcasts of off-line radio that sounded, at best, like a crappy AM receiver in the dash of an old Chevy. Today, with fatter bandwidth and phatter audio-visual power, so-called Netcasting has evolved into an influential culture and industry.

How influential? According to **RealNetworks** [www.real.com], developer of the most ubiquitous streaming audio and video software on the Net, more than 150,000 Netcasts are sent online every week. *PC Magazine* named the company as the 24th most influential of 1998, with revenue for 1997 exceeding \$32 million.

Still, even the largest Netcasting providers (such as **Broadcast.com**, which has more than 400 radio stations) are unlikely to make profits anytime soon. But the potential for revenue has fueled some major business deals. Viacom, MTV's parent company, recently acquired **Imagine Radio**, a do-it-yourself radio-programming site. This spring, Yahoo!, one of the Net's dominant portals, acquired Broadcast.com for more than \$5 billion in stock, and promptly launched Yahoo! Radio, a free service that allows registered users to easily click among a choice of 10 streaming audio stations. Around the same time, Lycos launched its own radio network, and other leading portals are expected to follow suit. Then there are the indie production companies and the "radioactive" artists.

Everyone with a modem, it seems, is 'casting over the Net, betting that as hardware shrinks and software grows, it's only a matter of time before Net radio takes over where the transistor left off. (Looking ahead to that day perhaps, Microsoft released Internet Explorer 5.0 with a built-in "Radio Toolbar.")

((THE NEW SCHOOL))

PSEUDO WANTS TO BE DISNEY. Or MTV. Or CBS. Or all of the above. For the past five years, the company, located in the heart of New York's Silicon Alley, has been using a utility belt of programs to create a new school of radio broadcasting that combines audio, video, chat, message boards—you name it.

"Anyone can do Net radio these days," says Mark Kotlinski, executive producer of **88hiphop.com**. "We're interested in doing something that's well produced, like our own TV channel. MTV is run by suits. CBS is a huge corporation. Online, a couple of 29-year-olds can pull out all the stops." Pseudo's shows, which cover online gaming to the new-media industry, give surfers the choice of real-time audio or video streams, and let them send e-mail questions or participate in chat. This interactiv-

ity has inspired other companies to produce a new generation of talk shows designed with the Net in mind. Like Pseudo, **Grit Internet Broadcasting** is a New York-based production house that develops niche programming. *Hitman* reviews the latest Web sites, and *.GOV* covers politics.

TalkSpot, a chat radio network that launched in Seattle in November, has an ambitious lineup, with dozens of shows covering professional wrestling to feng shui. Former Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates hosts a weekly look at law enforcement. In all, the network produces more than 900 hours of original programming every month. TalkSpot's hook, like Pseudo's, is audience participation; it even features "white board" programs, to allow surfers to collaborate on visual presentations.

"Interactivity is something that TV can't give," says John Morel, vice president of marketing and sales for TalkSpot's parent company, WorldStream. But do audiences really want to be interactive? It might be novel to chat up Daryl Gates. But audiences might prefer to flop on the futon with pretzels and an episode of *Cops*.

For years, pundits have advanced the path-of-least-resistance theory, which holds that the least demanding programming will prevail. But Morel remains optimistic. "We've been conditioned to consume the Net like a library," he says. "We think of it as more informational than entertainment. Getting to understand the Net as an entertainment medium is the next step."

((THE OLD SCHOOL))

"THE FUTURE OF NET BROADCASTING is the future of broadcasting." That's what Rob Glaser, chairman and CEO of RealNetworks, told television and radio executives who gathered in April for the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) conference in Las Vegas.

More than ever, old-school radio mavens seem to be getting the message in the new medium. According to BRS Media, a Web-based directory of Net radio sites, the number of radio stations that feature simulcasts online has nearly doubled in the past year, from about 1,250 to 2,260.

NAB spokesman John Earnhardt concurs that there has been what he calls "exponential growth" in the number of radio stations hitting the Web. The NAB is the largest organization of U.S. radio broadcasters, representing more than 5,400 stations. According to the latest numbers, 35 percent of NAB's stations are on the Net.

"Obviously, if there's any type of revenue available beyond the traditional sources," Earnhardt says, "broadcasters will take notice."

Such sites as **Web-Radio.FM** and Broadcast.com offer links to stations around the world. Last year, Nothing Else Matters Software introduced vTuner [www.vtuner.com], a software program and site that allow surfers to swiftly search stations from Massachusetts to Macedonia. And

there are signs that the expansion will accelerate.

With the recent moves by Yahoo!, Lycos, and the other portals, Netcasting is bound to become as standard as Java applets or message boards. Surfers will be able to choose and even create their own customized audiovisual content. It's a consolidation of companies on one hand, but it's power to the people on the other. And as bandwidth increases, so will the video, ushering in what the video/audio convergence pundits have called "interactive TV."

Being on the Web allows radio stations to reach a worldwide audience and build brand recognition among listeners who might be continents away. KCRW, a station in Santa Monica, California, has attracted a cult following online for its *Morning Becomes Eclectic*, an interview program that has featured rare appearances and performances by such artists as Tom Waits and P.J. Harvey.

"The Net gives us an opportunity to play around with alternative methods of distribution," says Jennifer Ferro, KCRW's assistant general manager.

Ultimately, old-school veterans such as Earnhardt see the Net as more of an option than an opponent. "Radio's strength is its localization and its ability to serve the community," he says. "As long as it has its localism, the Net won't be a threat."

((DO-IT-YOURSELF DJS))

WITH THE ADVENT OF the Web, anyone with a computer and a modem could become a publisher. These days, such software as RealProducer and Microsoft's Windows Media make it just as easy to be your own homespun radio star.

It's not surprising that iconoclastic musicians have been among the first to take to the wires.



88 Hip-Hop

88hiphop.com

Weekly hip-hop music and culture show from New York.

Brainwash

monsterbit.com/brainwash

Indie radio show by Butthole Surfers drummer King Coffey.

Broadcast.com

broadcast.com

Sprawling Net radio/video site includes radio stations, entertainment, and sporting events.

Web-Radio.FM

web-radio.com

Links to radio station sites across the Web.

ComedyNet

comedy.net

Live from New York, it's comedy shows.

ESPN Live Radio/TV

espn.go.com/liveradiotv

Talk shows and simulcasts from the popular sports channel.

Grit Internet Broadcasting

grit.net

Talk and entertainment programs made for the Net.

Imagine Radio

imageradio.com

Viacom/MTV's do-it-yourself radio programming.

JamTV

jamtv.com

Music site featuring news and frequent live Webcasts.

KCRW

kcrw.com

Santa Monica, California, radio simulcast featuring *Morning Becomes Eclectic* interview/performance show.

The LAW

liveaudiowrestling.com

Wrestling events simulcast online.

LiveConcerts.com

liveconcerts.com

Links to concert events from RealNetworks.

NPR Online

npr.org

Web site for National Public Radio, includes simulcasts of the network's popular programs.

Pseudo

pseudo.com

Net-only radio/TV programming covering hip-hop to computer games.

Radio 4 All

www.radio4all.org

Hub site for "pirate radio" simulcasts.

Radio Margaritaville

margaritaville.com/RM2.htm

Songs from Jimmy Buffett's desert-island discs.

The Shadow Radio Theater

www.shadowradio.org

Classic broadcasts from radio's Golden Age

Spinner

spinner.com

Do-it-yourself downloadable radio station; pick your own songs to play on your desktop.

TalkSpot

talkspot.com

Talk radio for the Net, from sex to politics.

Yahoo! Net Events

events.yahoo.com/Broadcasts

Regularly updated links to broadcast events.



ENJOY TO² DAY

TODDOLDHAM.COM

1-877-ENJOY-TO²

King Coffey, drummer of Butthole Surfers, has been spinning out his collection of vinyl on his garage rock show, *Brainwash*. Jimmy Buffett has gotten into the game with **Radio Margaritaville**, a site devoted to the music of his favorite artists.

Because Net radio is not governed by the Federal Communications Commission, there's really no censorship or guidelines to worry about (paging Howard Stern). In fact, refugees from the outlaw frequencies of microbroadcasting, aka pirate radio, have been taking their cause to the Net. Off-line, microbroadcasters use Radio Shack-style equipment to broadcast their shows on the unoccupied channels of the radio dial. Surfers can boot up such sites as **Radio 4 All** to find links to the unlicensed DJs.

For those who don't have the time or energy to pump up the volume from home, there are many new sites, such as **Imagine Radio**, that let you customize your own radio playlists online. And before its June acquisition by AOL, **Spinner** built a loyal audience of nearly 1.3 million monthly visitors, who can mix and match more than 175,000 songs in RealAudio format. Once you select the songs, they play in the background of your desktop.

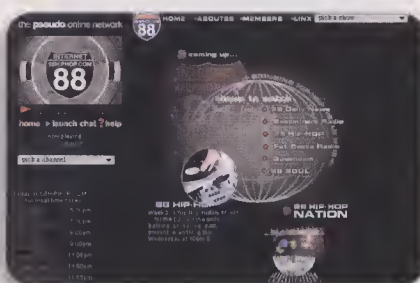
James King, a fan of classic American radio shows, launched a program called *Shadow Radio*. Every week, he encodes an episode from his personal collection of more than 200 episodes of *The Shadow*. King says, however, that for an independent Netcaster, it's difficult if not impossible to keep up with the rapidly changing software.

"While I'm committed to using RealAudio," King says, "by the time I've encoded and posted all of the episodes in my collection, chances are that technological advances will mean that my episodes may be obsolete."

((LIVE BAIT))

BACK BEFORE THE NET, music and sports fans huddled around radios to hear live simulcasts of their favorite events. In fact, that nostalgic practice inspired the birth of Broadcast.com: Founders Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner, in Texas at the time, wanted to listen to their beloved Indiana Hoosiers' basketball games, and necessity mothered invention.

Net radio continues to capitalize on streaming concerts



Making sound waves online: 88hiphop.com, Radio Margaritaville, and Brainwash.

and sports happenings online. Such sites as **JamTV** and **LiveConcerts.com** regularly simulcast performances online, in audio, and on video. At first, most of the simulcasts consisted of one-way streams, but more often, these days, live events are supplemented with behind-the-scenes reporting and interviews.

Broadcast.com has covered major events (the Super Bowl, the Stanley Cup). **ESPN** carries its stable of shows. **The Law** brings the rough-and-tumble world of wrestling to the Web—though, understandably, without the same *oomph*.

This is still the larval stage of Net radio's evolution, which means that many of the live events simply don't have the flair and polish of TV broadcasting.

Other companies are bringing some niche events to the Web. **ComedyNet**, launched in New York in May, delivers live comedy-club shows. The site features such festivals as HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival, plus nightly action from a variety of hot spots, including the Governor's Comedy Showcase in New York and Punch Line in San Francisco.

Unfortunately, live Net radio programming still hasn't been shrewd enough to include an interactive element. Wouldn't it be great if you could, say, heckle some of the comedians through chat? "That's something we're working on," says Victorria Johnson, general manager of ComedyNet. "We realize what medium we're on; people want to get involved."

((THE FUTURE))

88 HIP-HOP WINDS DOWN as Black Rob unloads a spontaneous stream of rhymes. Outside, in the elevator, founder Randy Nkonoki-Ward is cleaning some fresh graffiti off the walls. It's a far cry from more than three years ago, when he was recording the show in his apartment. At the time, callers who wanted to hear the music and interviews had to dial a 900-number. Now, with a variety of daily news programs, 88hiphop.com has become a part of the culture. "It's like having my own NBC," Nkonoki-Ward says.

A visiting rapper, Mr. Lee G, concurs. He says that he doesn't know where the trend is headed, but that he's along for the ride. "Real radio is limited by an antenna," he says, "but on the Web, I'm worldwide."

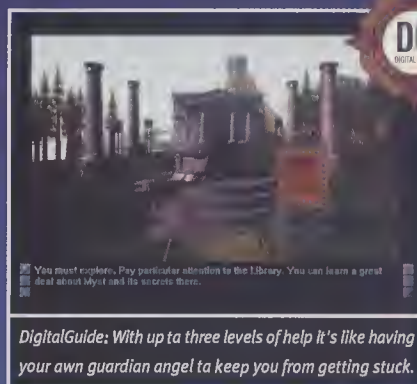


See What You've Myst

Since 1993, over 5 million people have forgotten their everyday worries, finding themselves captivated by Myst's intriguing adventure and stunningly beautiful environments. In doing so, they have made Myst the best-selling computer game of all time.

Now this timeless classic has been revamped with a host of new and improved features. **Myst: Masterpiece Edition** includes stunning graphics in all new 24-bit color, digitally remastered audio and video, and, most importantly, the addition of our proprietary DigitalGuide™ help technology. The DigitalGuide makes the game playing experience more accessible and less intimidating for players of any skill level.

So, whether you've never played Myst before or you've played, but never fully experienced this classic, now is the time to see what you've missed.



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OLDWAY

BY DAVID SHEFF



NETWAY

Comparing the Tried-and-True with the Net-and-New

[FINDING A HOTEL IN NEW YORK CITY]

OLD WAY

- 1 A travel agent said she could get me what was (she claimed) a good deal on a nice New York hotel: \$259 a night at the New York Hilton and Towers, or \$229 at the SoHo Grand.
- 2 These rates were steep, so I tried calling around myself. The better places all started at about the same price. The Waldorf-Astoria was \$219, which sounded like a good deal for such an elegant hotel. The Hilton, when I called myself, was \$375!
- 3 It seemed as though I had to be prepared to spend more than a couple of hundred dollars a night. Nevertheless, I decided to try the Net.

Total time elapsed
32 minutes

Comments

Of course, I *could* have continued to call the thousands of other places in New York.

NET WAY

- 1 Tried the main travel sites, including **MSN EXPEDIA TRAVEL** [expedia.msn.com] and **TRAVELCITY.COM** [www.travelocity.com], for the same hotels listed above. In general, the rates were higher.
- 2 Following a link, I tried a site called **HOTEL DISCOUNTS** [hoteldiscounts.com], where I clicked on "New York" and typed in the dates of our trip.
- 3 I was presented with a long list of hotels in a wide range of prices, from \$79 to \$400. The best deal for a hotel that I knew about was the St. Moritz: \$149 a night.
- 4 Booked the rooms online and received a confirmation.

Total time elapsed
6 minutes

Comments

Enjoyed the St. Moritz, especially for the price.



WINNER

Net Way

[CATCHING DR. DEAN ORNISH ON *FRESH AIR*]

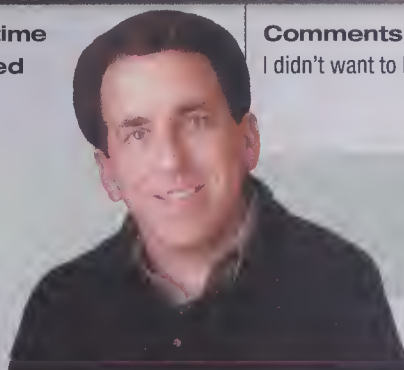
OLD WAY

1 Flipping the radio dial, I heard the tail end of Terry Gross's interview with Dr. Dean Ornish on National Public Radio's *Fresh Air*. Wanting to hear more, I planned to tune in to the afternoon broadcast of the show.

2 But I forgot and missed it.

3 Called NPR and learned that I could order a cassette tape, but it cost \$20 and would be sent out in the mail.

Total time elapsed
N/A



Comments

I didn't want to hear it that badly.

NET WAY

1 At the **FRESH AIR WITH TERRY GROSS** Web site [www.whyy.org/freshair], I learned that I could listen instantly and for free.

2 Clicked on "Now you can listen to *Fresh Air* on RealAudio," searched for *Ornish*, and clicked on the date of the broadcast (May 5, 1999).

3 In moments, the interview played on my computer's tinny speakers. It was free and instantaneous.

Total time elapsed
6 minutes surfing and accessing the broadcast

Comments

Fresh Air is a national treasure.

WINNER

Net Way

[BUYING A LADDER]

OLD WAY

1 In need of a ladder for some chores around the house, I checked the nearest hardware store. A decent 24-foot aluminum ladder was priced at \$99.

2 Stopped by the local Home Depot, where an identical ladder cost \$79.99.

Total time elapsed
40 minutes driving

Comments

I needed a basic ladder for occasional lightbulb changing, etc. A professional would choose a higher-quality, more expensive model.

WINNER

Old Way

NET WAY

1 To compare, I searched for ladders online and found a wonderful site called **LADDER MAN ONLINE** [www.ladder.com], which seems to offer a trillion (or so) choices. A light-duty ladder comparable to the ones I'd seen in the stores would cost \$127. There would also be a \$34 shipping charge—and a 10-day wait for delivery (shipping charges vary by ladder and by state).

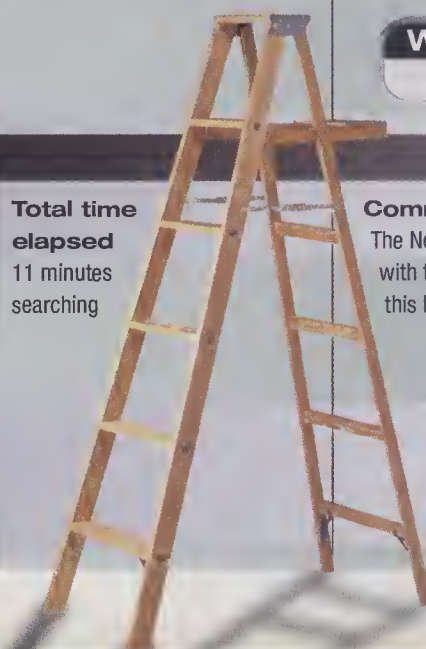
2 Tried **NETMARKET** [www.netmarket.com], where an otherwise similar 16-foot ladder was available for \$148 (or \$129 for members) plus shipping.

3 Used the Old Way and saved more than \$50. I also had a ladder the same day.

Total time elapsed
11 minutes searching

Comments

The Net doesn't (yet) compare with the discount stores on this large item.



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THERE'S A POISON GOIN ON....

for many is the web...the millennium for many is the wall...the millennium for many is the wall...the millennium

Site- reviews

Each month we send experts in various fields to seek out the best the Web has to offer. But first, a quick look at what's hot this month

new notable & fun!

RE.LAUNCH

SNAP. The National Broadcasting Company consolidates its interests, merging the once-dinky Snap with NBC.com and communities hub Xoom.com to create the new Snap, aka NBC Internet (NBCi). www.snap.com

DEJA.COM. Deja News, the home to more than 45,000 discussion groups, shortens its name (to just Deja.com) and centers its focus on Deja Ratings, a poll service that, in an effort to build a sense of community, wants to know your favorite sitcom and everything else about you. www.deja.com

ABOUT.COM. To compete with other portals, MiningCo.com digs up a new

name and becomes a search engine. Organized by real people, it provides original content in 650 different categories, including fly-fishing and interactive fiction. www.about.com

PORTALS.&SERVICES

MYBEGIN. Some people say the best thing about the *Drudge Report* is the list of news links. This portal reaches beyond media junkies, with links to the top sites in more than 35 categories, including Internet Directories, Stock Brokers, and City Guides. www.mybegin.com

TECHPOINTER.COM. Does your computer not compute? Assuming you can still get online, this "technology support

portal" can answer your questions. Scan the FAQs, and then write to Dr. Tech if it's a real emergency. www.techpointer.com

BUSINESS.&FINANCE

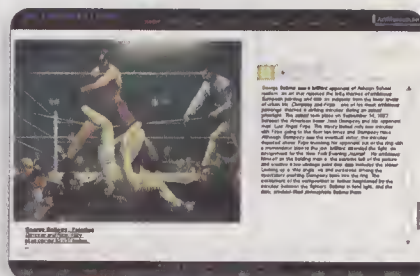
DOWJONES.COM. How now, Dow Jones? Find out here, as the company responsible for *The Wall Street Journal* offers free stock-market advice, and breaking news that focuses on 29 industries, including telecommunications and the Net. dowjones.com

QUOTE.COM. This Wall Street site spreads its wealth, offering its investment news and IPO ratings to the search engine/portal **INFOSPACE.COM** [www.infospace.com]. www.quote.com

ART.&SOUL

STORIES OF THE DREAMING. In Australia, it is a tradition to tell stories of ancestor spirits who created the land and its indigenous people. Read, hear, and see these sacred tales as RealPlayer video meets the imaginations of centuries past. www.dreamtime.net.au

ARTMUSEUM.NET. The Whitney Museum of American Art presents the online version of part one of its American Century exhibit, showcasing artwork from the first 50 years of, well, the American century. Along with masterworks by Edward Hopper, Grant Wood, and others, you'll find text and multimedia that brilliantly put each piece in historical perspective. www.artmuseum.net



Like George Bellows's *Dempsey and Firpo*, the American Century exhibit is a knockout.

GRRL POWER

WOMANROCK.COM. This networking hub, designed specifically for female artists by a female artist, features articles about those involved with "music, art, film, words, and business."

www.womanrock.com



Sisterhood is powerful: These Planet Girls aim to change the world—on the Web.

DFFD: TRIBUTE TO THE DICTATORS. They're nothing compared with Fidel Castro, but the garage band known as the Dictators is pretty tough. Just ask site creator Karen Winter, who updates her tribute regularly. "My favorite band," she promises, "can kick your favorite band's ass."

members.aol.com/dffd123

HOUSE & HOME

HOMEGAIN.COM. Before you put your home on the market, go on the Web. This site is a resource that aims "to make the most of your home sale." If you like that sales pitch, then you'll like the advice.

www.homegain.com

IT'S ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIEQUEST. Before you stand in line, stop here. Entering your ZIP code will get you theater show times and film reviews from local publications.

www.moviequest.com

AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS. Old meets new, as the cable channel known for black-and-white movies adds some splashy Shockwave to its site. Also, look for an expanded film history library;

sadly, there's no virtual Nick Clooney, the handsome on-air host.

www.amctv.com

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

JAPANORAMA. The Vapors sang about "turning Japanese," and this site would have aided their metamorphosis. It points to the latest videos and CDs from the country, including a nice selection by jazz artist Keiko Matsui. For \$45, a calligrapher will write your name in the native language and turn it into artwork.

www.japanorama.com

ICELANDIC MODELS. Need we say more?

www.icelandicmodels.is

TRAVEL & LEISURE

PLANETRIDER. This astounding site indexes more than 4,000 online travel guides, and provides its own travel recommendations. It's a trip worth taking.

www.planetrider.com

BID 4 VACATIONS. The online auction craze extends to travel, and this site offers low-priced vacations to the highest bidder. So how high will you go for that attractive dude-ranch package?

www.bid4vacations.com

MISC. NEAT

HACKED SITES OF THE FUTURE? Microsoft's home page has been hacked! Sort of. This site features faked hacks created "by people who like to be clever and witty but who don't want to launch federal probes by being clever and witty." Needless to say, the site is clever and witty.

www.2600.com/hacked_pages/prop

ROCK.COM: ROCK SCHOOL. The site with the great domain name adds an interactive cartoon that changes monthly. When we last tried it, we got a guitarist to play 26 different licks with the stroke of a few keys. Rock on!

www.rock.com/scripts/gate.cfm?rfd=1

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Dr. Charles Cooper, Christy Epstein, Ann Farmer, Dean Foust, Dina Gan, Mark Morelli, Tara O'Shea, Vivian Rose, Paul Semel, Ray Tennenbaum

Nuclear Legacy

THE BEST ★★★★★

On August 6, 1945, the United States unleashed the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, a second bomb devastated Nagasaki, effectively ending World War II and prompting Albert Einstein to say, "I do not know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." To learn how easily we could be blasted back into the Stone Age, target **THE HIGH ENERGY WEAPONS ARCHIVE**. This invaluable database, which houses hundreds of relevant links, reports that 130,000 nuclear weapons have been built since the end of World War II, and lists the arsenals of declared and undeclared nuclear nations. Its sister site, **TRINITY ATOMIC WEB SITE**, traces the legacy of the very first A-bomb test at Trinity Site in New Mexico, on July 16, 1945. Here, historic film clips show the stunning effects of a nuclear blast on a frame house and grove of trees, and capture the surreal shadows imprinted on a Hiroshima bridge by fireball-vaporized bodies.

www.fas.org/nuke/hew

★★★★★

www.enviroweb.org/enviroissues/nuketesting ★★★★★

For thorough, well-organized, unbiased information, the sleek **ATOMIC ARCHIVE** is hard to beat. QuickTime animations dramatize the potential effects of a nuclear winter and demonstrate the physics of fission and fusion. Listen to

J. Robert Oppenheimer's infamous mea culpa, a quote from the Bhagavad Gita: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

www.atomicarchive.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Fifty years after the end of World War II, the Smithsonian Institution planned a large-scale exhibition named after the *Enola Gay*, the B-29 bomber that flew the Hiroshima mission. But the exhibit was canceled under pressure from protesters, who claimed it portrayed the Japanese as victims and the Americans as aggressors. **CYBER EXHIBIT: ENOLA GAY AND THE ATOMIC BOMB** contains text and pictures from the Smithsonian plans. To learn more about the controversy, visit **ENOLA GAY PERSPECTIVES** for relevant press reports

and Congressional Record entries.
www.nhk.or.jp/nuclear/e/text/sumiso.htm

★★★★★

www.glue.umd.edu/~enola ★★★★★

We will never know the exact number of people killed by Little Boy and Fat Man—the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively—but it is estimated that more than 200,000 died by the end of 1945. The voices and memories of survivors are poignantly expressed at the **A-BOMB WWW MUSEUM**.
www.csi.ad.jp/ABOMB/index.html ★★★★★

Top Secret no longer! View once-classified documents that detail the steps leading up to the bombing of Hiroshima at **ATOMIC BOMB: DECISION**, where you can also tune in to President Truman's radio speech urging Japan to surrender on August 9, 1945. For the bottom line on Truman's fateful decision, peruse **THE U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS COST STUDY PROJECT**. This eye-opening report reveals how much nuclear weaponry money has been squeezed from Uncle Sam's pocketbook since 1940: more than \$5 trillion. Ouch!
www.dannen.com/decision ★★★★★
www.brook.edu/fp/projects/nucwcst/weapons.htm ★★★★★

Two provocative sites based on television broadcasts are housed at PBS Online. **THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: RACE FOR THE SUPERBOMB** gives you a virtual tour of a top-secret bomb shelter for congressmen, and lets you map out a nuclear blast near your home and then calculate your chances for survival. **FRONTLINE: RUSSIAN ROULETTE** is a chilling investigation of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal, including the so-called atomic suitcase bombs—small enough to fit into a duffel bag, yet powerful enough to destroy everything within a half-mile radius of the Capitol.
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/amex/bomb

★★★★★

www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/russia ★★★★★

—A.F.



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Woodstock

THE BEST ★★★★★

A three-day celebration of peace and music, which took place in August 1969, came to define an era. Admission was \$24, Jimi Hendrix shocked the world, and it was very muddy. Twenty-five years later came Woodstock '94. Admission was \$135, Bob Dylan showed up, and it was very muddy. Now Woodstock '99 (July 23–25) promises to capture yet another seminal moment in youth culture if it can manage to overcome its ironic setting: a former Air Force base. But it's the weekend at Max Yasgur's farm in Bethel, New York, 30 years ago that continues to fascinate. Two sites make it clear that the feeling of dancing naked and loving the one you're with never quite left those it touched. The slicker **1969 WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL & CONCERT** is equipped with a cyberstore of memorabilia, many musings on the original mayhem, and reunion news. **WOODSTOCK '69 LIVES!!!!** has exhaustive artist links and an extensive bibliography—without an ad for Amazon.com in sight. (Kudos to the counterculture!)

www.woodstock69.com ★★★★★
www.netwalk.com/~ailes/woodstock.html
 ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Because the '94 event was more or less just a great concert, it hasn't generated the kind of study and analysis devoted to the first spontaneous combustion. But for those intrigued by Woodstock redux, **WDDSTOCK '94 @ THE WELL** takes you as close as you can get without a time machine. Click on photos of attendees and



ARCHIVE PHOTOS ©

Not an exhibitionist? Get virtually naked on the Web.

hear what they had to say while covered in mud and fighting off hypothermia. (Com-

ments such as "Peace and safe sex from Woodstock '94" underscore the point that these kids weren't in Bethel anymore.) Unlike the sites dedicated to the original, there are no rose-colored glasses here; just a warts-and-all living document of a generation struggling to shake off the ghost of Woodstock past. www.well.com/woodstock ★★★★★

If you think there's no time like the present, then **WOODSTOCK.COM**, the official site for this year's festival, is the place to go. That's where you'll find up-to-

date info, including how to get there and tips on how to survive once you do. Exclusive interviews with some of this year's artists, including Sheryl Crow and Metallica, are accompanied by videos, a fair number of MP3 files, and a history of all three official Woodstocks. Be warned: The worthy content is offset by hype and advertising. But on the plus side, there's a chance to win Woodstock-related prizes.

www.woodstock.com ★★☆☆

Purists believe that the only place to gather and channel the vibe of '69 is Yasgur's farm. **WDDSTOCK NATION FOUNDATION, INC.** was created to keep the spirit alive, and its site does just that. From the groovy artwork to the details of the fight to freely assemble on the sacred ground where the first celebration took place, this site is pure flower power. You can also find information on what the Woodstock Nation has planned to mark the concert's 30th anniversary this month.

www.woodstocknation.org ★★☆☆ —C.E.

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that unlocks the true
power of the
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Food Stores

THE BEST ★★★★★

When online food stores were first introduced, the idea of taking your grocery list to your desktop instead of the supermarket sounded like something the Jetsons might do. But people quickly discovered that buying a family-sized box of cereal or a gourmet tin of caviar is no more futuristic than ordering a laptop or a book on the Web. Type your credit card number into the order form, and the goods get delivered at the standard fees by the usual methods: overnight FedEx or surface UPS if it's a national vendor; local delivery truck if it's a neighborhood merchant (see Peapod). Of the big food hubs, **NETGROCER** is close to ideal for ease of navigation and purchasing. The Shop Fast search lets you type in products and brand names (e.g., soap, cake mix, Skippy) and retrieve a list of specific items without having to hunt down each one. If you're buying for other people (your kid at college, your grandma in California), you can save items in separate "shopping carts" and send CARE packages easily. You can also create a schedule for a recurring order, such as coffee every month. Overall, the NetGrocer experience is similar to shopping in person at a Price Club warehouse (minus the membership fees). The site offers cookies alongside color scanners and office supplies, and savings are big when you buy in bulk. The selection is good, though some categories are a little quirky: There's wild boar filet in the meat department, but no plain old chicken. You also won't find fresh produce, eggs, or cheese. Nonetheless, this is a great place to stock up on staples and dry goods.

www.netgrocer.com ★★★★★

By teaming up with local supermarkets, **PEAPOD** can offer fresh produce, dairy, and meat, all delivered by van to your door at whatever time and date you



ERIC LARIVIERE/GETTY IMAGES

specify. Prices for national brands are on a par with what they cost in stores, sales and specials are frequent, and getting around this site is a breeze. Peapod provides nutrition facts for just about everything, including fresh fruit, and it can sort item lists in more than a dozen ways, including by fat or carbohydrate content. Tally purchases as you go, to keep track of your spending. You can even redeem manufacturer coupons by giving them to the delivery driver, who will apply their value to your next order. The only downside to this superconvenient service is that it's currently limited to Austin, Texas; Boston; Chicago; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas; Houston; Long Island, New York; San Francisco; and San Jose, California. If you happen to live in one of those places, there is no downside.

www.peapod.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

WHOLEFOODS.COM specializes in all-natural and organic foods, from staples like brown rice and wheat-free pasta to such taste-bud tingers as roasted-garlic salsa and soy-ginger sauce. Depth of stock is impressive, product details include photos and nutrition facts, and the site's *Whole Living* magazine offers dozens of recipes, articles, and cooking tips. Prices are discounted up to 40 percent off

Tired of endless checkout lines? Log on to the Net and get your groceries delivered.

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retail, with hundreds of specials offered every week. The only quibble we have is that although the foods are well organized under such headings as "Cans & Jars" and "Fruit to Nuts," navigation can get a bit cumbersome, because some of the pages are overloaded with health-food trivia. Then again, how else would you discover that a kiwi has as much fiber as a cup of bran flakes!

www.wholefoods.com ★★★★★

Prepare to drool over the impeccably displayed products at **DEAN & DELUCA**, which sells the best of everything, from designer chocolates to imported cheese, including such premium perishables as juicy blood oranges and well-marbled beef. If you're looking for Italian specialties, **BALDUCCI'S** stocks all the dry goods a pasta gourmand could want, along with prime cuts of meat and prepared seafood entrées. Prices at both shops tend to be high, but then so is the quality. **THE GOLDEN EGG**, a no-frills Web site that features specialty products used by top chefs, is more moderate. Selection is limited, but if you're looking for a bargain on a two-pound lobe of foie gras, you'll find it here. In fact, this may be the only place to order a whole baby goat online.

www.dean-deluca.com ★★★★★

www.balducci.com ★★★★★

www.ippi.com/golden_egg.html ★★★★★

If you've ever wanted to cook along with Martin Yan or Ming Tsai, but couldn't locate the ingredients in your area, there are several Asian grocers you can visit. At **THAIGROCER** you'll find everything from red curry paste to litchi juice, along with an on-site cooking school. Learn to prepare such dishes as green papaya salad or pad thai, then purchase the ingredients online. **MARUWA: JAPANESE FOODS SUPER MARKET** has thousands of items, from wasabi powder to tempura-batter mix. Most products are pictured but not described in detail, so this site is best for those who know exactly what they want. **EASY! HEALTHY! TASTY!** is more diligent about descriptions. Novices and veteran Asian chefs will



JANE FINE/ANTONY STONE

find this a great place to pick up such staples as tofu, short-grain sushi rice, and miso paste.

www.thaigrocer.com ★★★★★

www.maruwa.com ★★★★★

www.seagull-ny.com/foods ★★★★★

Ever wish you could buy apples from a farm in Washington state, cheese from a specialty shop in New York, and the most obscure of Ben & Jerry's ice-cream flavors—all at a single Web site? **YAHOO! FOOD & DRINK SHOPPING** lets you browse multiple stores with a single virtual cart, which you can fill with everything from Jolt Cola in the long-neck bottles to fresh littleneck clams. Though shopping here is a snap, checking out can slow you down, because you may have to make separate shipping and billing decisions for each store you patronize. Product details can also be sketchy, and prices are generally on the high side, though no more than you would expect with a vendor list that includes many upscale shops.

shopping.yahoo.com/food ★★★★★

The Jewish dietary laws of kashruth can be complicated, but with the **KOSHER GROCER**, following them is a simple affair. Here you'll find meat, dairy, baked goods, and more, all rabbinically certified. Vegetarians may also want to bookmark this site for its stock of veggie burgers, franks, cutlets, kabobs, and other meatless products. www.koshergrocer.com ★★★★★ —D.G.



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INTERNET LIFE

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Long-sleeve Twill Shirts • Mousepads • Turtlenecks • Flying Bats • T-shirts

The Y-Life Store

www.yil.com

Researching Medical Problems

THE BEST ★★★★★

Do you have a health condition that has not really responded to available treatments? Information about the latest and most cutting-edge therapies for medical problems ranging from premenstrual syndrome to cancer is available to those who know where to look. **CENTERWATCH**

CLINICAL TRIALS LISTING SERVICE

compiles data on many clinical trials currently being supervised by the FDA in preparation for possible approval of the treatment under study. But that's not all. Beyond providing links to numerous other resources, CenterWatch offers a Listing of Clinical Trials to help you find a local research center that specializes in your particular physical ailment. There's also an e-mail notification service that informs you of any new therapies as they become available, as well as a listing of all recently FDA-approved drugs. And be sure to visit About Clinical Research if you're considering a trial treatment: By suggesting questions you can ask the doctor, this section will help you decide if participating in such a program is right for you.

www.centerwatch.com ★★★★★

He educated the world about AIDS and cigarette smoke in the 1980s, and now former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop takes his "knowledge is power" mandate to the Web. Koop is chairman of the board of **DRKOO.COM**, which wants to be the Internet's general practitioner. You'll find a medical encyclopedia, drug and insurance information, and advice on more than 50 specific ailments and diseases. Each gets its own news page—from

sleep apnea and endometriosis to migraines and gastroesophageal reflux—complete with research articles, diagnoses, and chat forums. If you're concerned about your health in general, take the "Preventionnaire" to see how fit you are. And if the results are scary, visit the Stress Management page. It sure beats smoking a cigarette.

www.drkoop.com ★★★★★



Developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, **HEALTHFINDER** is a fantastic gateway to medical resources on the Net. Here, you'll find links to a tremendous array of Web sites for many illnesses, as well as various medical dictionaries and online publications. This site connects you to databases that let you search the entirety of the medical literature and can direct you to pages on choosing a health plan or a hospital. There are links to specific

information for every age group from infants to seniors, plus a section that reports all the latest medical news. Also housed in this gold mine are links to support and self-help groups, as well as to various health-site search engines and health information clearinghouses.

www.healthfinder.gov ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon to receive prescriptions for medications without being told much more by your doctor than "Here, take this." Now patients can turn to **RXLIST: THE INTERNET DRUG INDEX** to find out more about the pills they're popping. This helpful

resource covers the majority of available prescription drugs and common over-the-counter medications. It also provides information about drug interactions, side effects, precautions and warnings, proper dosage, and more—including circumstances under which the particular drug should not be used.

www.rxlist.com ★★★★★

Before deciding where to go under the knife, you may want to stop by **HEALTHCAREREPORTCARDS.COM** and check the grades of the hospitals you're considering. This site assesses institutions across the country for respiratory and neurological procedures, as well as cardiac and vascular surgery (with obstetrics and oncology to be added soon). It also evaluates hospitals' success in managing

such conditions as pneumonia, heart failure, heart attacks, and strokes. The report cards (except for obstetrics) are generated by analyzing raw Medicare data obtained from the Health Care Financing Administration; they are based on data from older patients, who tend to have more complications. But this site still serves as a valuable research tool for anyone facing surgery.

www.healthcarereportcards.com

★★★★★

—C.C.



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WWW.OUTWARDBOUND.COM

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Reality TV

THE BEST ★★★★★

Who polices the police? Attorney Richard Glen Boire does, via the **COPSWATCH** report. This provocative site monitors the conduct of those who shake down the perps on *Cops*. It's dedicated to "the electro-alchemical transformation of trash TV into a practical handbook for true civil disobedience." Boire studs his RealAudio reports with actual cop voice-overs from the TV broadcast, blows the whistle on officers caught behaving illegally, and provides valuable information about your constitutional rights. Also available in text format.

www.specmind.com/copswatch.htm ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

In some ways, *Real TV* is just a more gruesome version of *America's Funniest Home Videos*. The show's official site, **REAL TV**, lets you relive choice footage (such as an alligator chomping down on the skull of its trainer) in QuickTime and RealVideo clips that change weekly. Vote for your current favorite, or look back through the archive. And for those who want to chronicle their personal escapades, there's info on submitting your own "Snake bites 3-year-old!" tape to the show, as well as tips on how to film such priceless memories.

www.realtv1.com ★★★★★

Dedicated to the original *People's Court* with an enthusiasm that will make you wonder about the site's owner, **ADAM'S PEOPLE'S COURT PAGE!** is a hilarious look at the televised legal showdown. Anyone wondering what the cast has been



On *Real TV*, *BustedTV.com*, and *Road Rules* Reviews, reality TV meets virtual reality.

up to will be happy to read about how Judge Wapner spends his time ("in singles bars solving 'Hey, man, I saw her first!' disputes"). Adam also provides links to the Case and Verdict Generator, which is like *Mad Libs*, only legally binding.

www.auburn.edu/~millsag/court.html ★★★★★

It's up for debate how real MTV's *The Real World* and *Road Rules* actually are. For those who enjoy the latter show and don't mind their *vérité* with a bit of a setup, **ROAD RULES REVIEWS** has funny write-ups on the newest episodes that include a summary, analysis, and the best quote. The site also features rumors and facts about cast members, links to other *Road Rules* sites, and a page where people can brag about spot-

ting a former cast member at a bar. www.geocities.com/TheTropics/Cabana/5412/RR.html ★★★★★

According to **WILD FEED TV**, "'Backhaul feeds' are raw satellite transmissions used by TV stations to send live sound and video from one location to another. They often contain footage of politicians, news reporters, and other television personalities as they prepare to appear on television." Among those caught off guard in this site's amusing archive of QuickTime clips are George Stephanopoulos (wiping the sweat off his face) and MTV's Tabitha

Soren (yawning). www.wildfeedtv.com

★★★★★

Those *Busted on the Job* [*Caught on Tape*] specials were pretty funny in a "who would ever do that?" kind of way. But the official **BUSTEDTV.COM [CAUGHT ON TAPE]** Web site is actually fairly straight. It tells you how to submit your tape and how to buy past specials (though not electronically). Where it gets more interesting is on

the links page, which connects you to Spook Tech and other sites where you can buy surveillance equipment.

www.bustedtv.com ★★★★★

—P.S.

A LINK TOO FAR...

Since the show first hit the air, *Cops* has been the subject of numerous parodies, including a spot-on spoof on *The Simpsons*. But with all due respect to Chief Wiggum, the best of these is still **TROOPS**, a short film by Kevin Rubio that sets *Cops* in the *Star Wars* universe. Downloadable in five easy pieces from TheForce.net, the episode follows storm troopers on Tatooine as they mediate a domestic dispute between Aunt Beru and Uncle Owen and question a couple of Jawas about some stolen droids.

www.theforce.net/troops

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Ordinary Couples, Extraordinary Sex is an all new video series from the Sinclair Institute, America's premier producer of exciting sex education videos for adults. Developed by Dr. Sandra Scantling, one of America's most renowned sex educators and counselors, *Ordinary Couples, Extraordinary Sex* is an astonishing combination of visual excitement, sexual intensity and emotional intimacy.

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www.bettersex.com/ya

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Golf

THE BEST ★★★★★

Our category winner in last month's Gold Star Sports Sites awards, **GOLF ONLINE.COM**, rules. Once you pore over up-to-the-minute news and scoring updates, check out the ruminations of the always entertaining David Feherty, the sharpest golf columnist on the Web. Well-designed frames provide zippy navigation through *Golf Magazine's* vast resources, bolstered by the recent acquisitions of *Senior Golfer* magazine and the iGolf site. Content is separated into 18 "holes," such as Instruction, Fitness, Junior Golf, and, of course, *Golf Magazine* itself. If you're looking to check out the latest in equipment or plan your next links vacation, there's little to disappoint here. Subsidiary site Golcourse.com is the best place on the Web to find out about an unfamiliar course.

www.golffonline.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

The slick **PGA TOUR.COM** has information about every golf pro you're likely to see on television, and offers easy access through its quick-search Players page. It also boasts swing tips, caddie interviews, and player diaries. Best of all is the live reportage, including real-time scoring updates and regular broadcasts of PGA Tour Radio's weekend tournament coverage. Picture yourself teeing off where the masters have swung? Go Inside the Ropes to get the lowdown on how to Play Where the Tour Plays.

www.pgatour.com ★★★★★

CYPRESS GOLF.COM manages to be comprehensive without trying to be all things to all people. The emphasis is on golf as it's played socially—whether that's reflected in a profile of an avid golfer, such as Sun Microsystems CEO Scott McNealy, or in an offbeat feature about "Playing Through Your Pregnancy." Don't miss the lively interviews with industry insiders on *The Golf Guys' Radio Show*. Lee Wilcox, a regular on the show, also answers such provocative questions as "Just how long is *long* in golf shafts?" in the Clubmaker's Workshop.

cypressgolf.com ★★★★★

If photos of lushly landscaped, curving fairways are enough to get you itching to tee off, head to the **YAHOO! COURSES AND CLUBS** directory. You can shop around for a private club to join and investigate a golfing trip anywhere from Missoula to Moscow; there are enough courses listed to last a lifetime. Among them, Alabama's **ROBERT TRENT**

Follow pros like David Duval, or get a grip on your own game.

JONES GOLF TRAIL is a model of golf course presentation, so visually appealing you'll probably want to book the next flight to Mobile. And living up to its legacy as the "home of golf," the classy **ST ANDREWS LINKS** offers histories of the Scottish mecca's six celebrated courses, with course cards and maps.

dir.yahoo.com/Recreation/Sports/Golf/Courses_and_Clubs ★★★★★

www.rtgolf.com ★★★★★

www.standrews.org.uk ★★★★★

Long before titanium came along, artisans hand-forged golf clubs from wood, leather, and mild English steel. **OLD COURSE** pays tribute to the early club-makers with essays by golf historian Pete Georgiady, and serves as a meeting spot for collectors who would rather buy and sell hickory-shaft clubs with calfskin grips than invest in the latest oversize driver.

www.oldcourse.com ★★★★★

For thorough and frequently updated golf links that don't blur the line between advertising and information, visit the comprehensive **WORLD GOLF** site. This

easy-to-surf hub covers all your fairway needs, from course reviews and travel guides to playing tips and links terminology. www.worldgolf.com ★★★★★

Few official player sites are as intriguing as the **JOHN DALY** home page, produced by SportsLine USA. But then, not many pro golfers' lives have been as interesting as "Long John" Daly's. Read the tour diaries of a man whose struggles have been public and dramatic, then try your luck on the virtual course with the Long Ball Game.

gripitandripit.com ★★★★★

With NBC Sports and Total Sports behind it, **GOLF.COM** should definitely rock. Unfortunately, little separates its content from that of a hundred other sites with lesser resources. Much of the site's content is second-string by affiliate *Golf Digest* standards.

golf.com ★★★★★

—R.T.



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Outdoor Cooking

THE BEST ★★★★★

One of the great sages of the ages, comedienne Rita Rudner, revealed to us the eternal truth, "Men will cook if danger is involved." The most popular example of this is the backyard barbecue, but there is more to flame-broiling than just flipping burgers. Every month, **WEBER**, produced by the manufacturer of Weber Grills, presents a new gourmet menu, complete with wine and beer recommendations. From classic Sunday dinners to a full-blown Thanksgiving feast, each menu planner offers entrées, side dishes, salads, and desserts with simple step-by-step instructions that include preparation and grilling time, difficulty level, and heat range for your gas or charcoal grill. And if you don't fancy that month's special, the What's Cooking? recipe archive has hundreds of scrumptious options. Why settle for hot dogs when you could have Grilled Greek Shrimp Pizza?

www.weberbbq.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

You don't have to be from Down East to enjoy a real nice clambake. The time-honored tradition lives on at **TOM MCGRATH CLAMBAKES**, where they do it Newport, Rhode Island-style, from the creation and stoking of the bonfire right down to the sweet corn with drawn butter and the bivalves themselves, steeped in their own broth. But don't despair if you can't get your hands on rockweed, the seaweed used to steam the clams in an old-fashioned bake. The chefs at Valentine-Blackheart Hot Sauce & Condiments' **CLAM BAKE CENTRAL** use giant steamer kettles to prepare a seafood feast fit for kings, and their

Web site tells you everything you need to know to whip up a classic New England chow-down no matter where you live. riclambake.com ★★★★★
valentine-blackheart.com/
Roast/clam_home.htm ★★★★★

If it happens outdoors, you'll find it covered in-depth at GORP: Great Outdoor Recreation Pages, and the hub's **FOOD** page is no exception. Packed with tips from experts and useful links to purveyors of camping equipment, it offers a wealth of information about every aspect of cooking in the wild. Debate the merits of gas, propane, and wood. Try innovative menus that cover everything from fishing and foraging to spicy breakfasts and more than a dozen different trail mixes. Add your own recipes at the Campfire Forum. gorp.com/gorp/food/main.htm ★★★★★

EVERYTHING BUT THE ANTS

Want to plan the perfect picnic without having to leave your computer? Start with **YAHOO! PARKS** and pick your picturesque locale. Then check **WEATHER.COM** to see if you should throw the umbrella in the trunk before you head out the door. And don't forget the most important part: the food! Visit **CREATING THE ULTIMATE PICNIC** for what-to-pack essentials and recipes. Not in the mood to do prep work? Order a premade basket from **TAILGATE PICNIC**; prices start at \$25, and the gourmet eats come packed in an old-fashioned picnic hamper.

parks.yahoo.com
www.weather.com
www.nppc.org/CONS/season-picnic.html
empiremall.com/tailgate



WALTER HOGGIST/TONY STONE

Planning a Hawaiian getaway? No trip to the islands is complete without an authentic luau, which is more than just a feast on the beach. Although the traditional roast pig takes all day to prepare and is worth the price of admission in itself, pork and poi are just the prelude to a night of music, dancing, and spectacular Polynesian entertainment. For a taste of what you're missing, visit the **MAUI MARRIOTT LUAU** site, produced by the island's top luau packager. Or re-create a quasi-authentic luau at home with help from Old Hawaii's **LUAU HINTS AND TIPS**.

luaus.com ★★★★★
oldhawaii.com/luau ★★★★★

Sports fans! Football season is just around the corner, so why not fire up those hibachis and get ready for the ultimate tailgate party? From recipes to grill recommendations to cool accessories like barbecue branding irons, the red-white-and-blue-bedecked **TAILGATING** site includes everything the asphalt chef could want. So grab your lawn chair and a cup of Parking Lot Punch, dig into Rob's No-Mess Atomic Wings, and get ready to celebrate a uniquely American pastime. tailgating.com ★★★★★

—T.O.



If you've seen any of these children, please call the **NCMEC hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST.**

Every day, more than 2,200 children disappear. A staggering statistic. But there is good cause for hope. Working closely with law enforcement agencies across the country, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has achieved substantial success in finding children. Canon is proud to join the effort by donating state-of-the-art equipment to help disseminate photos and information about missing children faster. We urge you to look at these children and see if you recognize any of them. Then take current photos of your own children just in case of an emergency. Because photos are the best way to help find missing children. For more information about this program, visit our Web site at www.picturethemhome.com.



A recent poll among law enforcement found that pictures are the most important tool in the search for missing children. Canon is donating CanoScan™ scanners, Bubble Jet™ printers and PowerShot™ digital cameras to help get the photos out quickly.



Canon

Amusement Parks

THE BEST ★★★★★

Disneyland and Walt Disney World have had more Web pages erected dedicated to—and in condemnation of—their name-brand amusements than any of their rivals. Planning a trip to the original Mickey shrine in Anaheim, California? Start with **DIG: DISNEYLAND INFORMATION GUIDE**, which tells you everything you should know before you go, including where to find discount deals and how to snag the best photo ops with the Mouse. Parents with small kids will appreciate a site called **THE HAPPIEST POTTIES ON EARTH**, which reviews all of the rest rooms at Disneyland using a detailed rating scale that factors in four different types of urinal flushes. Even more obsessive is the **HIDDEN MICKEYS** site, which keeps track of all those subtle, almost subliminal, images of Mickey Mouse embedded throughout the Disney domain. (You'll learn, for example, that a chip on the tunnel wall of the Jungle Cruise at Walt Disney World is actually an etched-in portrait of the recondite rodent.) Wondering what ever happened to Captain EO, Aladdin's Royal Caravan, and the PeopleMover? **YESTERLAND** offers an extensive guide to discontinued Disneyland attractions. members.aol.com/alweho/docs/contents.htm

★★★★★
members.aol.com/DLPotties ★★★★★
www.hiddenmickeys.org ★★★★★
www.mcs.net/~werner/yester.html ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

If you're looking for a theme park—with or without ears—pay a visit to **THE AMERICAN MIDWAY**. The site features a directory searchable by state, with links to attraction reviews, official park

pages, and weather forecasts. It also rates the world's most hair-raising roller coasters on its Enthusiasts' Midway page. If your idea of fun entails getting soaking wet, use the Member Park Locator of the **WORLD WATERPARK ASSOCIATION** to search for a place to have a splash in any city, state, or country.

www.americanmidway.com ★★★★★
www.waterparks.org ★★★★★

Why would fully grown adults still subject themselves to the blatant commercialism and juvenile marketing schemes of theme parks? Two words: roller coasters. If, like us, you're a seeker of thrills and chills, check the **ROLLER COASTER DATABASE** for stats on more than 475 rides in North America, including the latest '99 models. You can search by location, type (steel or wooden), category (bobsled, mine train, inverted), speed, height, and other factors. To learn how these loop-de-loops actually work, visit **AMUSEMENT PARKS PHYSICS**, which explains the "forces behind the fun" of coasters, bumper cars, and other attractions. roller.coaster.net ★★★★★
www.learner.org/exhibits/parkphysics ★★★★★

ABOUT.COM: THEME PARKS offers streamlined links, conveniently organized into categories like Carousels and Haunted Houses, as well as frequently updated articles on such topics as ride safety and

how to persuade theme-park-despising spouses to take you to Disneyland. Need basic info but don't want to wait for official park pages to load? Use the handy Fast Facts feature to get phone numbers, directions, and other details for 30 or so of the biggest American amusement venues, including all Six Flags locations. themeparks.about.com ★★★★★



CHAD SLATTERY/TONY STONE

Ever wish you could revisit childhood pleasure domes that have long since shut down? Try the **DEFUNCT AMUSEMENT PARKS** site, where you can search for your favorites by state and submit your own photos and recollections. One venerable park that's still open for business is New York's Coney Island. The eye-catching **CONY ISLAND TDURIST INFORMATION** site provides a map of local Hot Spots and a FAQ that answers such queries as "Where's the house under the roller coaster we saw in *Annie Hall*?"

www.defunctparks.com ★★★★★
coneyisland.brooklyn.ny.us ★★★★★ —D.G.

FREE PARKING

Looking for a place to discuss your favorite pastime? The **rec.parks.theme** newsgroup on Usenet is a popular hangout. Here you can complain about your latest recreational letdown ("Dr. Doom sucks!") or dish about the park maintenance worker who was fired for taking a boy away from his family. ("Parents should have kept eyes on kids instead of farting around.")

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Space Exploration

THE BEST ★★★★★

After just three decades, America's fascination with those grainy TV images of Neil Armstrong's 1969 moonwalk seems quaint. Today's 8- (or 80-) year-old has access to a vast domain of information about celestial exploration that is almost as infinite as space itself. The obvious launching pad is **NASA**. You could spend an aeon exploring the galaxy of sites housed in this constantly updated gateway, but we'll single out a few stellar stops. More than 250,000 images are stored in **EARTH FROM SPACE: AN ASTRONAUT'S VIEWS OF THE HOME PLANET**, where you can get a John Glenn vantage point on terrestrial events from raging hurricanes to the aftermath of oil fires in Kuwait. Looking outward from this big blue marble, **NASA HUMAN SPACE-FLIGHT** consolidates a subuniverse of sites devoted to current space shuttle and space station projects and provides real-time programming on NASA-TV, as well as 3-D tours. And looking back, NASA's **HISTORICAL ARCHIVE** for manned missions chronicles aeronautic adventures from the third century B.C. to today's programs. These are just the tip of the tip of an interplanetary iceberg. www.nasa.gov ★★★★★
earth.jsc.nasa.gov ★★★★★
shuttle.nasa.gov ★★★★★
www.ksc.nasa.gov/history/history.html ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

How do you go to the bathroom in space? Find out in the Ask an Astronaut section of the **NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY ON-LINE** site. Everyone from Buzz Aldrin to the crew of *Apollo 17* has stopped by here to answer



How does a hurricane look from space? Log on to NASA and see for yourself.



questions; the responses are archived along with multimedia files from their missions. You can also e-mail your own query to a new astronaut every month. S.P.A.C.E. (the Space, Planetary, and Astronomical Cyber-Experience) offers out-of-this-world links that connect you to a host of space resources, organizations, and image and data banks. www.nss.org ★★★★★

If *Hubble* to you means a famous astronomer and not a Whitewater figure, then visit the **SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE INSTITUTE**. Produced by the real-life home of the Hubble telescope, this site posts stunning images snapped from the environs of Jupiter and beyond, providing a rich archive of data for advanced, serious stargazers. www.stsci.edu ★★★★★

Galileo was confused by Saturn's odd appearance. Nearly two centuries later, the discoverer of Uranus dubbed the plan-

et "the Georgium Sidus," after England's King George III. There's a wealth of trivia and knowledge to uncover at **THE NINE PLANETS**, which offers a multimedia tour of our solar system that combines science with human history and mythology. seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets ★★★★★

A former member of the NASA Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) Science Team, Dr. Sten Odenwald is currently doing astronomical research. Got a question for him? Visit **ASK THE SPACE SCIENTIST**. He's answered more than 24,000 queries since August 1995. Chances are, you're not going to stump him. image.gsfc.nasa.gov/poetry/ask/askmag.html ★★★★★

Anyone who has ever been enthralled by the 23 awe-inspiring galleries at the **SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM** knows there's nothing on Earth like this place.

Get a taste of that experience at the institution's Web site, where online-only exhibitions include some audio and video. www.nasm.edu ★★★★★

It takes human faces to popularize NASA programs. The **ASTRONAUT HALL OF FAME** heralds 44 pioneers. Find out how they got the right stuff. www.astronauts.org ★★★★★ —M.M.

INTERGALACTIC GEAR

SPACE AGE COLLECTIBLES will put you into orbit with official NASA mission caps, patches, T-shirts, toys, videos, and spacecraft models. **THE ULTIMATE SPACE PLACE** deals in memorabilia from the serious (handwritten equations by rocketry pioneer Robert Goddard, \$8,799) to the schlocky (limited-edition astronaut Beanie Babies, \$225).

www.spaceage-collectibles.com
www.thespaceplace.com

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Age	10 YEAR	15 YEAR	20 YEAR	25 YEAR	30 YEAR
35	\$ 118	\$ 135	\$ 155	\$ 208	\$ 213
40	\$ 148	\$ 183	\$ 185	\$ 263	\$ 273
45	\$ 200	\$ 210	\$ 265	\$ 360	\$ 393
50	\$ 260	\$ 305	\$ 375	\$ 535	\$ 590
55	\$ 380	\$ 428	\$ 578	\$ 1,018	\$ 1,065
60	\$ 528	\$ 675	\$ 865	\$ 3,140	\$ 3,140
65	\$ 838	\$ 993	\$1,633	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
70	\$1,400	\$1,637	\$3,283	\$ 5,270	\$ 7,220
75	\$2,797	\$ 4,770	\$6,560	\$10,370	\$10,370

Age	10 YEAR	15 YEAR	20 YEAR	25 YEAR	30 YEAR
35	\$ 138	\$ 153	\$ 178	\$ 245	\$ 273
40	\$ 161	\$ 199	\$ 243	\$ 345	\$ 360
45	\$ 240	\$ 315	\$ 375	\$ 500	\$ 523
50	\$ 358	\$ 483	\$ 558	\$ 798	\$ 838
55	\$ 535	\$ 720	\$ 848	\$ 1,640	\$ 2,810
60	\$ 860	\$1,070	\$1,353	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
65	\$1,453	\$1,813	\$2,850	\$ 5,270	\$ 5,270
70	\$2,620	\$3,503	\$5,405	\$ 7,370	\$10,070
75	\$4,415	\$ 7,848	\$9,650	\$13,640	\$13,640

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Pets

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Looking for a pet to adopt? Feel like chatting about the one you already have? Searching for advice on how to “brain-train” Fido or give a “tune-up” to your horse? **THE PET CHANNEL** has it all—and more. You can sign up for a free e-mail newsletter; read helpful articles on veterinary care; find out about upcoming cat, dog, and horse shows; send adorable animal e-cards to friends; and even check your Persian’s horoscope. If your household includes a canine, feline, or equine family member, start your Web research here.

www.thepetchannel.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Dog lovers or cat fanciers will find **CYBER-PET** a terrific place for tips on everything from choosing a kitten to controlling your puppy’s fleas. Cleverly designed as a *Star Trek*-type universe in which a neon-caped Cyber-Dog and Cyber-Cat serve as your “mission” guides, this site is especially good for people who value a pedigree: A searchable database points you to all types of breeders worldwide, whom you can contact to purchase the purebred you seek after browsing through photos on their home pages. You’ll also find bustling chat rooms and a good links section that includes rescue and shelter groups and personal family-pet pages.

www.cyberpet.com ★★★★★

Though some areas are still under construction, **ALLPETS.COM** lives up to its name, with sections devoted to creatures that fly, swim, and slither, as well as to those that trot and prowl. Find out how

to help your ferret beat the heat-wave blues on the Allexotics page, or get advice on feeding your boa constrictor from the snake guru at Allreptiles. And don’t worry; Rover and Fluffy still get their due, with great pics of dozens of pedigreed cats and dogs, and links to select U.S. and international breeders with pets available for purchase.

www.allpets.com ★★★★★



BURN FORTY/TONY STONE

Every owner is convinced that his or her particular pride and joy is the cutest pet in the world. Why not prove it once and for all? Submit a photo to **ACMEPET.COM** and proudly display the little darling’s adorable mug in the gallery. While you’re there, you can do scores of other things, too. Whether your pet is furred, finned, or feathered, you can read about it, chat about it, and chuckle about it on the humor page. Check your animal IQ with the trivia quiz, or take the opinion poll to vent about such issues as whether

pets belong in the workplace.

www.acmepet.com ★★★★★

Sure, it would love to sell you some cat or puppy chow. But the **PURINA** Web site is also a surprisingly fertile resource for pet owners. Especially useful is the Advice section, which covers a broad range of topics—including how to travel comfortably with your pets, how to break them of annoying habits like digging up the yard, and how to be a good “pet neighbor” to the folks next door.

www.purina.com ★★★★★

Anyone whose cat has ever destroyed a piece of furniture, shredded an item of clothing, or otherwise thoroughly misbehaved will appreciate **BAD KITTY!**, a

hilarious compilation of hundreds of things that your feline should resolve never to do: “I will not ‘smurgle’ on my human’s \$120 Polartec sweatshirt.” There’s also a tit-for-tat Bad Human List, written from the cat-as-master point of view (“I will not tease my master with imitation treats”), plus additional lists for bad dogs, bad horses, and several other animals. And if you have your own pet peeve (and what owner doesn’t?), you can submit it here, too.

geog.utoronto.ca/reynolds/pethumor/badkitty.html ★★★★★

Want to open your home and heart to a furry friend in need? **PET-ADOPTIONS.COM**

hosts nicely streamlined sites for animal shelters around the country. Window-shop by browsing through photos and descriptions of potential adoptees, or search for animals by category to locate precisely the kind of pet you want. No luck finding that husky-shepherd mix? For each of the 18 shelters that the site hosts, you can sign up for the free notifier service, which lets you know when your mutt comes in. Or post a Pet Wanted ad in the free classifieds.

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—V.R.

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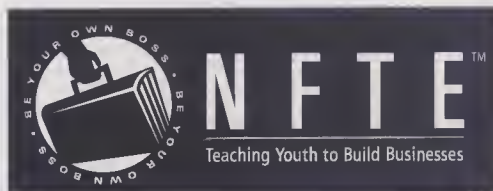
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Starting a Business

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Tired of being a wage slave? Got the urge to hang out your own shingle? If you could use some help coming up with the scratch, the Net can lead the way. Start at the **U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**, which offers one of the best overviews of government resources. You can find helpful primers and online workshops, plus a treasure trove of small-business shareware to help you crunch all the necessary numbers. Here's where you can find info about the SBA's new Y2K Action Loan, part of its vaunted 7(a) loan program. And when you're ready to apply for funds, you'll find downloadable forms for the SBA's myriad programs for women, minorities, veterans, and the disabled (although you can't actually apply for any of the programs online). If you could use some mentoring first, the site offers advice on tapping into the SBA's counseling resources, including the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

www.sba.gov ★★★★★

When your local banks deem your idea too risky, consider venture capital. **CFOL.COM: COMMERCIAL FINANCE ONLINE!** boasts the largest database of financiers on the Web, searchable by state, desired loan amount, and type of financing. If you can't get your funding from CFOL, you probably can't get it anywhere; the site boasts more than 22,000 lenders and investors, providing factoring, leasebacks, letters of credit, and much more. Luckily for cash-strapped startups, the service is free to would-be

borrowers; lenders, however, pay \$549 a year (trial memberships are available). www.cfol.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

If you think convertible debt is what you use to buy a sporty car, better pull up a stool at the **IDEA CAFE**. The Financing Your Biz section serves up one of the best sets



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

of primers, glossaries, and calculators we found, including many articles and resources tailored to women and minority business owners. And unlike other sites that simply deal in cold numbers, the Idea Cafe tries to match your financing sources to your personality and temperament by offering several self-exams that help you discover your inner entrepreneur.

www.ideacafe.com ★★★★★

Believe it or not, the most popular source of small-business financing is

the lowly credit card. Director Robert Townsend started an independent filmmaking trend by financing part of his first movie, *Hollywood Shuffle*, with plastic. We don't recommend this method, but if you must, check out **BANKRATE.COM** for the best database of personal and business cards—searchable by any of six criteria, including low interest rate and long grace period. Alas, most of the card companies won't let you apply online; for that, you have to pick up the phone.

www.bankrate.com ★★★★★

Forget those stories about the guy who wowed his investors with an idea sketched on the back of a napkin. The reality is that most lenders demand a detailed business plan. For \$10,000 to \$17,500, the experts at **BIZPLANIT.COM** will prepare a custom plan for you. If that's too rich for your blood, click over to Palo Alto Software's **BPLANS.COM**, where you can find useful tips for writing your own plan, as well as several samples you can download in PDF format. If you would like a team of experts to review your plan before you start shopping it around, the **MONEYHUNTER** board of advisers can render a professional critique for \$495.

www.bizplanit.com ★★★★★
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If you're long on time but short on cash, one trick is to swap your products or services for those you need in return. An estimated 200,000 businesses routinely engage in such bartering. For as little as \$10 a month (with a three-month minimum), you can advertise what items or skills you would like to swap on **BARTER.NET**. There's no fee to search the catalog of what others have to trade. Can't find a match? Check the site's listing of off-line barter exchanges, or submit a free search form to find one near your home.

www.teleport.com/~dtpdx/bnhome.htm ★★★★★

—D.F.



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WILL THE Y2K SKY REALLY FALL?

continued from page 112

Generic brands come from overseas, where Y2K could pose a bigger problem and interrupt supplies. If your health depends on a piece of electronic equipment, contact your health-care provider to make sure it will work in 2000.

Bills. Computers were supposed to diminish reliance on pulp-derived products. Ironically, your best Y2K safeguard may be a paper trail. Starting this fall, balance your checkbook every month. Keep bills, financial records, and big-ticket receipts for the last 60 days of this year and the first 60 days of next year. And scrutinize statements for computer errors.

Thrills. If you plan to jet away for a New Year's holiday, steer clear of exotic Third World locations. A World Bank survey of 139 developing countries revealed that only 39.5 percent had a Y2K action plan, which makes air travel there risky. Russia and China shouldn't be high on your New Year's list. And reports say that in Latin America, air-traffic controllers are taking refresher courses in guiding planes without computers. Just in case.

AND THEN THERE'S ONE RISK that has not been overhyped: If you run a small or home-based business, Y2K *could* affect you. The National Federation of Independent Business estimates that Y2K may severely cripple or shut down three-quarters of a million small businesses. Another 4 million may suffer problems.

If you run a business, you should do the following before the end of the year:

- Install new Y2K-compliant computers. Prices have dropped so much that it's plain crazy not to do this.

- Upgrade all number-crunching software and spreadsheets to the latest versions. You'll need to do it eventually, anyway; might as well do it now and be safe.

- Make sure your suppliers, vendors, and distributors are Y2K ready. If they aren't, you have time to line up alternates.

Of course, the real disaster comes not on January 1, 2000, but the following week. That's when all those lucrative Y2K consulting jobs dry up, and roving packs of starving consultants begin to prowl the streets. On second thought, maybe extra bullets aren't such a bad idea. **Y**

OUT OF TUNE

continued from page 128

costs. The record labels talk about how easy it is to pirate a song to 200,000 people. The other side of the coin is that it's so easy to *sell* music to 200,000 people."

The major labels might not find that logic terribly compelling, but consumers continue to support MP3. In fact, studies show it's currently the most popular file format on the Net. As a result, even major artists ignore it at their peril. That's not to say, of course, that all of them are doing so: In April, Alanis Morissette and Tori Amos announced that MP3.com would be cosponsoring their joint summer tour [alanisandtori.com] (see "Supposed Current MP3 Junkie," page 123).

At least for now, some of the competition is jumping on the MP3 bandwagon as well. By early this summer, **Liquid Audio** [www.liquidaudio.com] was to have added MP3 capability to its player, which was formerly limited to two secure formats. "We believe that MP3 has a lot of momentum, and that's why we are putting it in our system," says Andrea Cook Fleming, Liquid Audio's director of marketing. Fleming adds that the company is also "proud to be part of the SDMI process" and that its chief technology officer, Phil Wiser, is in the process of editing the portable-player specifications. To make its pro-MP3 moves more palatable to its industry friends, Liquid Audio has announced that every MP3 file on its network will include the Genuine Music mark identifying it as legitimate. "We are format-neutral," Fleming says. "An artist might want to give away a song in MP3, and then they might want to offer another one for sale in a secure format. They can use us for both of them."

Even Microsoft, the ultimate corporate behemoth, has decided to light out for the digital-music territories without the SDMI imprimatur. In addition to its Sony deal, Microsoft has released a new "edition" of Windows 98, which includes an updated Windows Media Player capable of delivering streamed audio and secure downloads. Why did Microsoft make its move so far in advance of a final SDMI announcement? "We have competitors that are moving very rapidly, and we have expectations from our customers that we move the technology forward rapidly," says Gary Schare, lead product manager

for Windows Media at Microsoft. "It didn't make business sense for us to wait. We believe we can both deliver some great technology and work within SDMI."

So, in this climate of frenzied innovation, are market forces indeed making even the best-laid plans of SDMI irrelevant?

"Absolutely" is Robertson's predictable answer. But even a more disinterested party such as Forrester's Mark Hardie doubts that SDMI will play the leading role in determining the future of digital music. "I don't think it is going to make a difference for Christmas," he says. "Consumer-electronics manufacturers are already done, and they are not changing anything that is headed for the stores. That's not how they work."

In the end, you don't have to be an industry analyst to understand that Hardie might just as well be writing SDMI's epitaph when he concludes: "The major labels don't think in unison; they have separate interests. They are not all just music companies. Sony is a huge entertainment conglomerate, whereas EMI is primarily a music company. So they all have different strategies of how to succeed in the music business. SDMI pronouncements won't exactly be like tablets coming down from the mountain." **Y**

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The Comic Book Periodic Table of the Elements

www.uky.edu/~holler/periodic/periodic.html

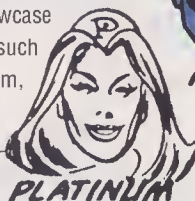
It's amazing how much you can learn from reading comic books. Nearly every element in the periodic table has been mentioned in a superhero comic at some point. Naturally, one of the Net's lovable obsessives has taken the time to compile all those mentions, scan them in, and organize them into a clickable showcase of submolecular superheroics, starring such esoteric elements as bismuth, hafnium, osmium, and everyone's fave, europium.



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www.throughwire.com

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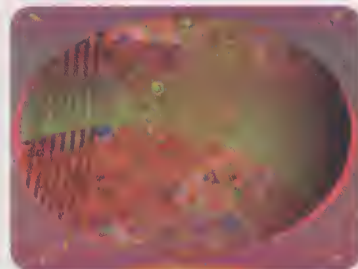


Snarg

www.snarg.net

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best guess is that it's the product of the unholy union of a Rubik's Cube, a crop circle, and a B-grade sci-fi flick. Our explanation is that it fell to Earth from an alien craft, then latched onto a human, and used its host's fingers to code itself into a Web site. Hey, we didn't say it was a *good* explanation. Is it a game? Is it a garden? We're not sure. Our only advice for you is, if it looks shiny, click it.



Operation Egg Crackdown

www.yoderanium.com/webhome/antiegg

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ingly, "No eggs have ever been prosecuted, much less convicted." This site will teach you how to recognize eggs and their tactics. You'll also find tips on protecting yourself and your loved ones: "Equip your home with Teflon doors and windows," and "Carry a spatula at all times."



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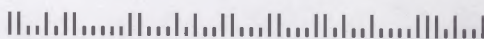
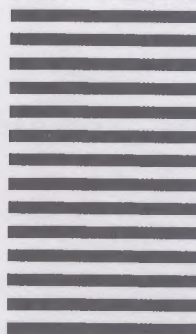
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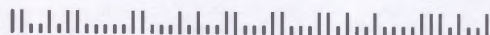
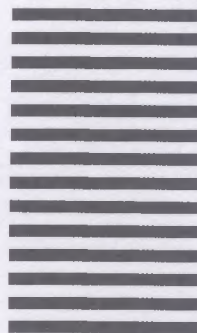
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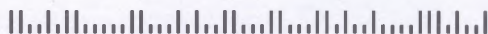
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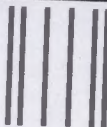
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